

THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 1861.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1863.

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THREEPENCE
Stamped Edition, 4d.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The next Meeting will be held at NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, commencing on Wednesday, August 24th, 1863, under the Presidency of Sir W. G. ARMSTRONG, F.R.S.

Notices of Communications intended to be read to the Association, accompanied by a statement whether or not the Author will be present at the Meeting, may be addressed to G. Griffith, A.M., Secretary of the Royal Society of Arts; or to Captain Noble; Augustus H. Hunt, Esq.; R. C. Clapham, Esq., Local Secretaries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE, M.A. F.R.S.
General Treasurer,
19, Chester-street, Belgrave-square, London, S.W.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on SATURDAY, the 18th day of July next, the SENATE will proceed to ELECT EXAMINERS in the following Subjects, and at the Salaries stated to be paid to each Examiner, during the ensuing year, as and not as may be appointed by the Senate. The Examinations will begin on the 20th SEPTEMBER NEXT. Salaries commence from the next Quarter-day after Election.

Salary.

Law	40
Jurisprudence and Political Economy	40
Medicines	100
Surgery	100
Midwifery, &c.	75
Maternal Medicines and Medical Jurisprudence ..	100

Applications to be made by letter addressed to me, on or before the 10th of July next. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

By order,
G. JOHNSTONE STONEY, M.A. F.R.S., Secretary.
Queen's University, Dublin Castle,
June 22, 1863.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—

The Offices of LIBRARIAN, QUESTOR AND CLERK to the University will shortly become vacant by the resignation of their present occupant.

These Offices will be held conjointly as hitherto. The total emoluments arising from them will increase in future to £30. per annum, with a progressive increase to £60.

As Librarian the person appointed will have the responsible charge of an extensive Library. He will also be required, as Questor and Clerk, to keep the Accounts and Minutes of the University, and to discharge the general work of Treasurer and Secretary.

Intending Candidates must lodge a printed copy of their Testimonials with each member of the SENATUS ACADEMICUS (the Principals and Professors of the two Colleges) not later than the 1st September next.

Further inquiries may be addressed to Professor VEITCH, St. Andrews, Convener of the Library Committee.

St. Andrews, May 1863.

A GRAND FANCY BAZAAR will be held, under the patronage of St. James's Hall, Regent-street, on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY NEXT, the 30th June and 1st and 2nd July, 1863, in AID of the FUNDS of the LONDON SURGICAL HOME.

The following Ladies have kindly consented to hold Stalls:—

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHER-LAND.—THE HON. MRS. PARNELL.

THE LADY CONSTANCE GROSVENOR.

THE COUNTESS OF DARNLEY.

THE LADY ANNE SHERSON.

THE LADY ELIZABETH CUST.

THE LADY AGNES JOLIFFE.

THE LADY FOLEY.

THE LADY ADELIA MAN-NERS.

THE MISSES BAKER.

THE SALE will commence at 1 o'clock, and the Band of the Scots Fusilier Guards will be in attendance every day.

Contributions of Money, Work, and Fancy Articles of any description will be gladly received by the Honorary Secretaries for the Bazaar, Mrs. CHARLES HENDY, 10, Stanley-gardens, Notting-hill, W., and Miss BAKER BROWN, 5, Stanley-terrace, Notting-hill, W., and Miss BAKER BROWN, 5, Stanley-terrace, Notting-hill, W.

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THE LORD BISHOP OF LICHFIELD in the Chair.

Cards of admission may be had on application to Mr. Williams, at the College Office.

E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Dean.

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Grenadier and Scots Fusilier Guards' Bands at Three.—Admission, 7s. 6d.; or by Tickets purchased before the day.

LAST GREAT SHOW at SOUTH KENSINGTON, WEDNESDAY NEXT.—Tickets until Tues. day, 5s. each, to be had at the Gardens, and of the principal Librarians and Musicsellers.

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The Next Examination will be held on MONDAY, January 25, 1864, and the following Days of the Week.

Candidates are required to deliver their Applications and Recommendations to the Secretary, on MONDAY, December 12, 1863.

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The necessary Forms to be filled up can be obtained of the Honorary Secretaries, after the commencement of the Session, in November next.

Signed, JOHN P. SPEDDON, HON. CHARLES FORSTER HAYWARD, J. Secs.

THE ATHENÆUM for GERMANY and EASTERN EUROPE.—Mr. LUDWIG DENICKE, Leipzig, begs to announce that he has made arrangements for a weekly publication of THE ATHENÆUM JOURNAL. The subscription will be 10 thaler for three months; 3 thaler for six months; and 8 for twelve. Issued at Leipzig on Thursday. Orders to be sent direct to LUDWIG DENICKE, Leipzig, Germany.

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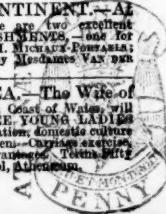
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1863.

LITERATURE

Despatches from Commodore Wilmot respecting his Visit to the King of Dahomey, in December 1862 and January 1863. (Presented to the House of Commons.)

THESE Despatches throw some new light on that strange region well known as the Garden of Africa, and give a graphic account of its extraordinary sovereign. The King of Dahomey has recently obtained the reputation of being one of the chief promoters of slave traffic; hence English cruisers and English missionaries have been hovering about his territories. Towards the end of last year, Commodore Wilmot, of the Rattlesnake, was informed by the Rev. P. W. Bernasko, Wesleyan Missionary in the English fort, that the King of Dahomey was most anxious to see somebody of consideration from England—"a real Englishman"—with whom he might converse on the affairs of his country. Having mentioned this to the Yavogah of Whydah, the latter said, "If you will come back again in seven days, I will send to the King, and let you know if he will see you." He accordingly sent to the King, saying that Mr. Wilmot was a "good and proper person, come out as a messenger from the Queen of England." Before making up his mind to accept the King's invitation, there were many points, Mr. Wilmot tells us, to be considered. It had been said that our late attack on Porto Novo had enraged the King's mind to such an extent that he had expressed a strong desire to lay hands upon an English officer in order to avenge the destruction of that place. Porto Novo belongs to his brother; and the European residents at Whydah had spread the most alarming reports of the disposition of the King towards Englishmen, and his hatred of them. But after mature consideration he resolved to go, and place implicit trust in the King's good faith.

Having made preparations for an absence of fourteen days, he landed on the 22nd of December, in company with Capt. Luce and Dr. Haran, of the Brisk, who had volunteered to accompany him. The Rattlesnake and the Brisk were sent to cruise, and both vessels were ordered to return on the 14th of the next month. The three Englishmen were conveyed in hammocks across the lagoon and through the wet marshy ground, almost impassable in the rainy months, to a large tree at the entrance of Whydah, where certain ceremonies were gone through as a welcome. They were received most cordially by the Yavogah and other officials, with drums beating, colours flying, muskets firing, cabooceers as well as soldiers dancing, and the latter singing warlike songs. "We were also treated," remarks the Commodore, with the simplicity of a man accustomed to strange sights, "to the manoeuvres of a slave-hunt." The Yavogah and chiefs accompanied them to the English fort, where the King's stick was presented, and the healths of the Queen of England and the King of Dahomey were drunk. Having secured hammock-men, carriers for luggage, and guides, and being furnished with a body-guard of soldiers, they started the following afternoon, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Bernasko and his servants. They arrived at Cannah, eight miles from Abomey, in the evening, when the King was holding his court. At all places on the road the head men turned out with their soldiers, and received the strangers with firing, dancing and the usual presents of water, fowls and goats. Speeches were made expressive of their desire to go to

war and cut off heads for their master. The war-dance was performed by women and children, and motions made with swords as if in the act of decapitating their enemies. This show of war did not interfere with hospitality, for at the villages where they slept, comfortable quarters had been provided, and water furnished. The latter is, however, denounced by the Commodore as very bad, scarce and unwholesome. The King had sent three of his sticks by special messengers to meet them on their way, with inquiries about their health; and at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 10th he summoned them to his reception. They went in full dress, and remained under some large trees, in an open space. After a short time, the chiefs arrived in succession with their followers, according to their rank, and were duly introduced, the same drumming, firing, dancing and singing being carried on as at Whydah. When this, which occupied a considerable time, was over, the Commodore and his companions got into the hammocks and went to the palace, outside of which, in a large square, were assembled all the chiefs with their people, as well as large bodies of the King's soldiers. The gaudy colours of the large umbrellas, the dresses of the headmen, the firing of the muskets, the songs of the people, the beating of the war-drums, the savage gestures of the soldiers, and their ferocious appearance, made the travellers at first a little uncomfortable. All, however, treated them with marked respect, while, according to custom, they were carried three times round the square. After the third time, they got down and entered the palace-gates, passing through a row of chiefs on each side. They found the courtyard of the palace presenting a spectacle not easily forgotten. At the further end was a large building, of some pretensions to beauty in that country, being made of thatch, and supported by columns of wood, roughly cut. In front of this, and close to it, leaving an open space for admission to the King, was placed a large array of variegated umbrellas, to be used only by the sovereign. Near these were congregated his principal chiefs. On either side of him, under the building, were his wives, to the number of about one hundred, gaily dressed, most of them young and exceedingly pretty.

The King was reclining on a raised dais, about three feet high, covered with crimson cloth, smoking his pipe, whilst one of his wives held a glass sugar-basin as a royal spittoon. He was dressed very plainly, the upper part of his body being bare, with only a silver chain holding some fetish charm round his neck, and an unpretending cloth around his waist. The left side of the court-yard was filled with Amazons, from the walls up to the King's presence, all armed with various weapons, such as muskets, swords, gigantic razors for cutting off heads, bows and arrows, and blunderbusses. Their large war-drum was conspicuous, being surrounded with human skulls. The visitors advanced with due form and ceremony to where the King was sitting; and, when close to him, all the respect due to royalty was paid by bowing, which he gracefully acknowledged by bowing himself, and waving his hand. Having sat down close to him, in chairs that had been brought from Whydah, the conversation commenced with the usual compliments. He asked about their health, and how they got on during the journey. He then inquired about the Queen and all her family, asking many questions about the form of government in England. Mr. Wilmot said the Queen sent her compliments to him, and hoped he was quite well, at which he seemed much pleased; but this being only a visit of introduction, nothing political was

entered into. The King then gave orders for his Amazons to perform a variety of movements, which they did most creditably. They loaded and fired quickly, singing songs all the time. In Mr. Wilmot's opinion they are a very fine body of women, and are very active in their movements, being remarkably well limbed and strong. No one is allowed to approach them except the King, who lives amongst them. They are first in honour and importance. All messages are carried by them to and from the King and his chiefs. Every one kneels down while delivering a message, and the men touch the ground with their heads and lips before the King. The women do not kiss the ground nor sprinkle themselves with dust as the men do. When a man appears before the King he is obliged to perform the ceremony of covering his head and upper part of his body with dust before he rises, as much as to say, "I am nothing but dirt before thee!" Though the Commodore admits that this is rather a degrading spectacle, he says, "but, after all, it is only the custom of the country." After the Amazons had finished the manoeuvres, they came to the strangers and gave them their compliments, singing songs in praise of their master, and saying they were ready for war, suiting the action to the word by going through the motions of cutting off heads. The King then introduced all his princes, chiefs, and warriors, in succession, according to rank; then the chiefs and captains of the Amazons; then the princesses, daughters of the late King: in fact, he brought up and named one by one everybody of importance in his kingdom, including the mother of the King and the mothers of his principal chiefs. After each group was introduced, a bottle of rum was given, the usual present after such a ceremony, and a signal that they had permission to retire. To the head chiefs a glassful each was presented, which was drunk by themselves, or given to one of their followers. When once in the King's presence, or in his capital, no one, European or native, can leave without this customary present. After all the presentations, the King called the Amazons again to salute the strangers, and then offered them water and spirits, which he drank with them; and thus terminated the first visit. No one is permitted to see the King drink: all turn their faces away, and a large cloth is held up by his wives while the royal mouth takes in the liquid.

When the visitors were going away the King got up, it being almost dark, and walked side by side with them across the courtyard, through the gates, and nearly half-a-mile on the road towards their house, which was considered a great compliment. The whole court followed, with the exception of the Amazons and the wives, who never join in such processions. The soldiers shouted and sang their war songs, while certain chiefs went in front of the King to clear the road and point out any dirt or inequalities of ground before the feet royal. The sight was imposing, and impressed Mr. Wilmot with the power of the King amongst his people. He seemed much feared as well as much beloved. Indeed, he appears to have produced no small effect on the Commodore himself, who describes him as a very fine-looking man, upwards of six feet high, broad-shouldered, and with a pleasant countenance when he likes. His eyes are blood-shot. He is a great smoker, but does not indulge much in the bottle. His skin is much lighter than that of most of his people, resembling the copper colour of the American Indians. He is very active, and fond of dancing and singing, which he practises in public during the "customs." He is an admirer of the fair sex, of whom he possesses as many as he likes. He is about forty-

three years old. Before leaving the palace, the King saluted the Queen with twenty-one guns, from pieces of all sizes, the largest being a 3-pounder. These guns are, usually, carried on men's heads, and occasionally placed on the ground and fired off. The King also saluted his visitors with nine guns. The number of guns fired was shown by a corresponding number of musket-balls produced in an iron pot.

On arriving at their quarters after this day's ceremony, the Prince, who had accompanied them from Whydah, asked for a present for the soldiers and Amazons. He said he hoped they would not make him ashamed before his people, as he had brought the party up, and was ordered to attend upon them. Mr. Wilmot immediately acquiesced, and made them a handsome present, which was thankfully acknowledged. Whenever strangers meet, they either drink with each other on their first arrival, or when they are about to depart. Of course, our countrymen had always to submit to this, which caused a great drain upon their resources. Next day the King's jesters danced before them. One of the Amazons, in firing, had injured her hand very much by the bursting of the musket, and a messenger arrived from the King with a request that the doctor might be allowed to attend her. This was granted, and Dr. Haran saw her twice a day until the wound was healed and a perfect cure made. The wound was a very severe one, and Mr. Wilmot thinks it was fortunate for the Amazon that the skill of Dr. Haran was called in.

The Commodore has no small opinion of his own tact. He says:—"I have reason to believe that my line of conduct was rewarded by the whole country being laid open before us, and the whole people, King, chiefs, and all, being our friends. The greater part of what we saw I firmly believe was entirely got up for my sake, and certainly no white men ever saw what we did, or were treated with such marked consideration."

While at Cannah the King invited them on the afternoon of two days to witness the firing of his Amazons and soldiers with ball at a mark. They found him about two miles outside the town in a very large open space which had been cleared away, surrounded by his chiefs and people, to the number of several thousand, preparing to practise at a number of goats, which were tied to stakes driven in the ground at intervals of about fifteen yards, under a mud wall of considerable length, and about ten feet high. The King received them very cordially, and told the Prince to place them under his own umbrellas in a convenient place for seeing everything. The firing commenced, and the King's body guard of Amazons distinguished themselves as good shots. The King fired several times himself. The soldiers fired also exceedingly well, and taking into consideration the quality of the flint musket and the iron ball, which is jagged and fits loosely in the barrel, the display they made astonished the strangers. Several goats were killed, and on the second day four of those despatched were sent to Mr. Wilmot as a present. These had been selected by the Amazons as a particular present to the visitors, and until they were killed no other goat was fired at. The firing was very rapid, and the ladies' weapons were well handled. Some heads were cut off during the night, and this appears to be the practice whenever the King returns to his capital. Eight heads were in the doorway of the palace on the following morning, and more of these trophies were inside. Mr. Wilmot and his companions remained in Abomey five weeks, and daily witnessed scenes of a very extraordinary character, such as the dancing of the Amazons, their war-

like songs, the dancing and songs of the soldiers, the distribution of presents to the Princes, chiefs, captains, and head men of the troops, the "passing" of the King's drummers, of the captains of the Amazons, of the King's jesters, and of a variety of other people which appear before the King during the "customs."

Upon the last day but one of the "customs," late in the afternoon, a large body of soldiers, with their attendants carrying their camp equipage, made their appearance from a place about three days' journey in the interior, belonging to the King. These men had been sent to the assistance of a small town belonging to a chief on friendly terms with the King, who had been threatened by the Abbeokutans, and who had applied to Abomey for assistance. The King had granted the assistance required, and despatched two of his head warriors with about 600 men for this purpose. When these men arrived at the town, they found that the Abbeokutans, hearing of their approach, had run away, and hence their return to Abomey. As usual, on their return the King made them a long speech and gave them presents.

On the Saturday, six days after the English party's arrival at Abomey, the King saw them privately in his own palace, and they gave him the presents brought up for the occasion. He was attended by six of his Privy Council, his most trusted friends; also by five of his principal wives. He would only receive the presents from Mr. Wilmot's hands. He gave him first the picture of the Queen, saying that Her Majesty had sent this out to him as a mark of her friendship, and her wish to be on good terms with him. He took it in his hands and admired it very much. In this picture the Queen is represented in her coronation robes, with crown on her head and sceptre in her hand. The frame is very handsome, and the picture is a large one. After looking at it attentively, he asked many questions concerning the dress, and then said, "From henceforth the Queen of England and the King of Dahomey are one. The Queen is the greatest sovereign in Europe and I am King of the blacks. I will hold the head of the Kingdom of Dahomey, and you shall hold the tail." Mr. Wilmot then gave him a few small presents from himself, with which he was very much delighted and grasped him warmly by the hand. His council participated in these feelings, and said, "At last good friends have met." Then commenced the delivery of the message which the Commodore thought it his duty to lay before the King. The first subject was the Slave Trade, on which he argued apparently at great length. He then gave the King an admonition about human sacrifices, and the threatened occupation of Abbeokuta, winding up with the suggestion of an embassy, an extension of trade and missionary schools. The King listened attentively to the message, and made several remarks during its delivery. The usual ceremony of drinking was not forgotten, and he accompanied Mr. Wilmot through the gates of the palace far on the road to his quarters, amidst the cheers of the soldiers and people. They remained a month in Abomey after the delivery of this message, in consequence of the "customs" going on. Nothing could persuade the King to let them go until this was over, as he was most anxious that they should see everything and report it.

They saw the Royal treasures pass round in the interior of the palace, preceded by all the principal ministers, princes, and chiefs, in their Court costume. The captains of the Amazons passed round in the same way. The costume worn, the different colours displayed according to etiquette, the ornaments of silver round the necks, with an occasional skull at the waist-

belt of the Amazons, and the half-savage appearance of all, notwithstanding their good manners and modest behaviour, were peculiarly interesting. It was during the procession of the King's treasures, that the "human sacrifices" came round, after the cowries, cloths, tobacco and rum had passed, which were to be thrown to the people. A long string of live fowls on poles appeared, followed by goats in baskets, then by a bull, and lastly half-a-dozen men with hands and feet tied, and a cloth fastened in a peculiar way round the head.

A day or two after these processions, the King appeared on the first platform: there were four of these platforms, two large and two small. His father never had more than two, but he endeavours to excel him in everything, and to do as much again as he did. If his father gave one sheep as a present, he gives two. The sides of all these platforms were covered with crimson and other coloured cloths, with curious devices, and figures of alligators, elephants and snakes; the large ones are in the form of a square, with a neat building of considerable size, also covered over, running along the whole extent of one side. The ascent was by a rough ladder covered over, and the platform itself was neatly floored with dried grass, and perfectly level. Dispersed all over this were chiefs under the King's umbrellas, sitting down, and at the further end from the entrance the King stood surrounded by a chosen few of his Amazons. In the centre of this side of the platform was a round tower, about thirty feet high, covered with cloths, bearing similar devices as the other parts. This is a new idea of the King's, and from the top of this tower the victims are thrown to the people below. When the King is ready, he commences by throwing cowries to the people in bundles, as well as separately. The scramble begins, and the noise occasioned by the men fighting to catch these is very great. Thousands are assembled with nothing but a waist-clout, and a small bag for the cowries. Sometimes they fight by companies, one company against the other, according to the King's fancy; and the leaders are mounted on the shoulders of their people. After the cowries, cloths are thrown, occasioning the greatest excitement. While this lasts, the King gives them to understand that if any man is killed, nothing will be done to the man who is the cause of it, as all is supposed to be fair fighting with hands, no weapons being allowed. Then the chiefs are called, and cowries and cloths are given to them. The King begins by throwing away everything himself; then his Amazons take it up for a short time, when the King renews the game, and finishes the sport, changing his position from one place to another along the front part of the platform. When all that the King intends throwing away for the day is expended, a short pause ensues, and, by and by, are seen inside the platform the poles with live fowls (all cocks) at the end of them, in procession towards the round tower. Three men mount to the top, and receive, one by one, all these poles, which are precipitated on the people beneath. A large hole has been prepared, and a rough block of wood ready, upon which the necks of the victims are laid, and their heads chopped off, the blood from the body being allowed to fall into the hole. After the fowls came the goats, then the bull, and, lastly, the men, who are tumbled down in the same way. All the blood is mixed together in the hole, and remains exposed with the block till night. The bodies of the men are dragged along by the feet, and maltreated on the way, by being beaten with sticks, hands in some cases cut off, and large pieces cut out of their bodies,

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which are held up. They are then taken to a deep pit and thrown in. The heads alone are preserved by being boiled, so that the skull may be seen in a state of great perfection. The heads of the human victims killed are first placed in baskets and exposed for a short time. This was carried on for two days. Mr. Wilmot would not witness the slaying of these men on the first day, as he was very close to them, and did not think it right to sanction by his presence such sacrifices. He therefore got up and went into a tent, and when all was over returned to his seat. One of the victims was saved:—

"While sitting in the tent a messenger arrived, saying, 'The King calls you.' I went and stood under the platform where he was. Tens of thousands of people were assembled; not a word, not a whisper was heard. I saw one of the victims ready for slaughter on the platform, held by a narrow strip of white cloth under his arms. His face was expressive of the deepest alarm, and much of its blackness had disappeared; there was a whiteness about it most extraordinary. The King said, 'You have come here as my friend, have witnessed all my customs, and shared goodnaturedly in the distribution of my cowries and cloths; I love you as my friend, and you have shown that an Englishman, like you, can bear patience, and have sympathy with the black man. I now give you your share of the victims, and present you with this man, who from henceforth belongs to you, to do as you like with him, to educate him, take him to England, or anything else you choose.' The poor fellow was then lowered down, and the white band placed in my hands. The expression of joy in his countenance cannot be described: it said, 'The bitterness of death, and such a death, is passed, and I cannot comprehend my position.' Not a sound escaped from his lips, but the eye told what the heart felt, and even the King himself participated in his joy. The chiefs and people cheered me as I passed through them with the late intended victim behind me."

The "customs" were concluded by a day of firing, when all the soldiers, under their different leaders, marched past the King in review order. The King danced with his Amazons, and invited the visitors to join. While the "customs" last the King does not transact any public business.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 16th of January, the King asked the Commodore to review his Life Guardsmen and women, and he then made him Colonel over the whole of them, about one thousand strong each—an honour for which the new Colonel had to pay dearly, according to the custom of the country. Speeches were made by the Captains, who were introduced separately, the whole tenor of which was what they would do at Abbeokuta, and the number of heads that would fall to Mr. Wilmot's share. The following day, Saturday the 17th, the King saw them in private, as before, and gave his answer to the message. He commenced by saying how glad he was that a messenger had been sent who by his patience and forbearance had shown himself a friend to the black man. He then entered into a long history of his country in the time of his ancestors, and stated how anxious his father was to be friends with the English. He said that for many years past (he did not know why) the English seemed to be hostile to him, and endeavoured to make all nations in Africa fight against him. He said that the Slave Trade had been carried on in his country for centuries, and that it was his great means of living and paying his people. He did not send slaves away in his own ships, but "white men" came to him for them, and was there any harm in his selling? We ought to prevent the "white men" from coming to him; if they did not come he would not sell. We had seen what a great deal he had to give away every year to his people who were dependent on

him; and that this could not be done by selling palm oil alone. If people came for palm oil he would sell it to them; but he could not carry on his government upon trade alone. If he gave up the Slave Trade, where was he to get money from? It was not his fault that he sold slaves, but those who made his fathers do it, and hence it became an institution of his country. He said, "I cannot stop it all at once: what will my people do? And besides this, I should be in danger of losing my life." Being asked how much money he would take to give it up, he replied, "No money will induce me to do so; I am not like the Kings of Lagos, Porto Novo and Benin. There are only two Kings in Africa, Ashantee and Dahomey; I am the King of all the blacks. Nothing will recompense me for the Slave Trade." He said there were plenty of blacks to sell, and plenty to remain; and that the price of a slave was 80 dollars, with 4 dollars custom on each. On most occasions he is paid before the slaves are taken away, but sometimes he risks the payment, and then he suffers by the capture of the slave-ship. He said, "I must go to Abbeokuta: we are enemies; they insulted my brother, and I must punish them. Let us alone; Why interfere in black man's wars? We do not want 'white men' to fight against us; let every one go out of Abbeokuta, and see who will win. Let the 'white man' stand by and see which are the brave men!" He spoke strongly of Porto Novo, and said, "If my friends the English had sent to me, I would have broke Porto Novo for them." He promised faithfully to spare all the Christians and send them to Whydah, and that his General should have strict orders to that effect. When asked about the Christians at Ishagga, he said, "Who knew they were Christians? The black man says he is a white man, calls himself a Christian, and dresses himself in clothes: it is an insult to the white man. I respect the white man, but these people are impostors, and no better than my own people. Why do they remain in place when they know that I am coming? If they do so, I suppose they are taking up arms against me, and I am bound to treat them as enemies. If a musket-ball touches the white man at Abbeokuta, am I to blame if they will not go away when they know I am coming?" Mr. Wilmot reasoned with him no longer on this subject, because he thought "his observations so thoroughly just and honest." The next subject was the "human sacrifices." He said, "You have seen that only a few are sacrificed, and not the thousands that wicked men have told the world. If I were to give up this custom at once, my head would be taken off to-morrow. These institutions cannot be stopped in the way you propose. By and by, little by little, much may be done; softly, softly, not by threats. You see how I am placed, and the difficulties in the way: by and by, by and by." As to the Embassy, he said he would send a Prince to England, if Mr. Wilmot came again and gave him the Queen's answer to what he had stated. With regard to the schools at Whydah, the King said, "Any of the mulattoes may send their children."

After the interview, which lasted some time, the King made several presents: namely, for the Queen a large umbrella, made of different coloured velvets, with the devices emblematic of their customs; a large carved stool, which no one but kings are allowed to possess; a pipe-stick and bag; a bag made from the leather of the country, with a lion worked upon it; a very handsome country cloth, and a long stick ornamented with silver, which can only be carried by the king; also two girls, one about twelve, the other sixteen, very pretty and intelligent. These last were left by the Commo-

dore at Whydah, in charge of the coloured missionary's wife there, until the wishes of Her Majesty on the subject can be ascertained. The girls were taken at Ishagga, and seemed to be very interesting.

They found the population very scanty. After they had left Whydah, every soldier in the place went on to Abomey to swell the numbers there. There was not a man to be seen on their return, none but women and children. On the whole, there are far more women than men, probably three to one, which may be the reason why the Kings of Dahomey, who are always at war, are obliged to raise and keep up the Amazons, or "women soldiers," to the extent that they do.

The Amazons are everything in this country. The King lives with them and amongst them; they are only to be found in the royal palaces. When they go out to fetch water, which is every day and nearly all day, the one in the front (for all follow in single line) has a bell round her neck much like a sheep-bell in England, which she strikes whenever any person is seen approaching. Immediately the men run away in all directions, and clear the road by which the Amazons are coming. They then wait till all have passed. The reason for this is, that if an accident were to happen to any one of these women, either by her falling down and breaking the water-jar on her head, or if the water-jar fell off her head, the unfortunate man who happened to be near at the time would be immediately seized, and either imprisoned for life or have his head taken off, as it would be supposed that he was the cause of the accident. No wonder, then, that they get out of the way as quickly as possible. The Commodore and his friends were always obliged to follow this custom, but women are not expected to avoid them in this manner. All day long the sound of this bell is heard, and people are seen flying away. The Amazons seemed to enjoy it, and laughed heartily when the men stepped aside to avoid them.

Whatever may be the object in thus keeping up such a large body of "women soldiers," there is no doubt that they are the mainstay of the kingdom. Mr. Wilmot put down the number at 5,000; and besides these there are numerous women to attend upon them as servants. He saw 4,000 under arms at Abomey, and there are more in other parts of the kingdom residing in the royal palaces. He thinks they are far superior to the men in everything—in appearance, in dress, in figure, in activity, in their performances as soldiers, and in bravery. Their numbers are kept up by young girls of thirteen or fourteen years of age being attached to each company, who learn their duties from them; they dance with them, sing with them, and live with them, but do not go to war with them until they have arrived at a certain age, and can handle a musket. These women seem to be fully aware of the authority they possess, which is seen in their bold and free manner, as well as by a certain swagger in their walk. Most of them are young, well-looking, and have not that ferocity in their expression of countenance which might be expected from their peculiar vocation.

This Report on Dahomey is one of the most curious bits of reading produced during the London season.

Taste versus Fashionable Colours: a Manual for Ladies, on Colour in Dress. By W. and G. Audsley. (Longman & Co.)

LADIES owe thanks to the Messrs. Audsley, who are already known as the producers of several handy-books on Decorative Art, for having spared them the labour of mastering the theories and illustrations of M. Chevreul

and others who have written on the theme in hand in a general and scientific manner.

When a gentle reader has made up her mind that she is a Fair or a Ruddy Blonde, a Pale or a Florid Brunette, all she has to do with this book is to turn to the sections of advice it contains, and be informed as to what colours are properly applicable to her condition. That a lady should treat herself as a work of Art, and dress with skill is surely desirable. To invoke intelligence to the toilette and give something of science to the labour of those hours, which men believe to be spent before the mirror in endless experiments and the exercise of a mere empiricism, would go far, to one portion of the female sex at least, to induce cultivation of a subject that is really of grave importance. "Taste" is the title given to those glimmerings of science, sometimes instructive, but never deep, which distinguishable milliners from their dull conpeers. How they obtain even these lights has been for ages a mystery to artists; let it suffice that they do attain true knowledge of certain rules, of an empirical kind, which generally save these persons from committing egregious blunders, and not unfrequently aid in producing those elegant effects in costume which are recognized by the cultivated eye on the instant, and are, even by the male sex, gratefully enjoyed. The object of the work before us is rather the extension of these empirical rules, by adding to the number of maxims at a lady's command, than to effect that which we think more important and of great service as a branch of education,—i.e., the inculcation of scientific knowledge of the laws of beauty in colour. The deeper-seated laws of form, which determine what is beautiful in line and shape, are beside the view of the subject taken by the Messrs. Audsley; therefore, they are not to be blamed for silence on that subtle branch of Art.

Upon form depend not only the arrangement of masses of drapery about the wearer's person, the height, projection and curve of her bonnet's edge, the balance of her shawl's gatherings about the shoulders, bust and hips, length of the shawl itself, and, under present domination, the relative expanse of crinoline, or even its entire absence,—but the cunning adjustment, or perhaps we should say choice, of pattern appropriate to the natural proportions and "shape" of the subject to be arrayed. How many are the blunders, how few the successes of the modistes in this matter of form, let every man's memory attest who has seen the results of their ignorance on pretty heads in the shape of hats—the most beautiful as well as the most useful of head-dresses: the round hat where an oval one should be, the high one in a low one's place, or, worst of all, in those ugly constructions that rise high like a cocked-hat above the ear, droop in deep peaks at the back and front, show a flat crown and roll their brims in a badly-designed fold on each side. No creature with a grain of "taste" would have invented the monstrosity in question, which lacks the essential of a cocked-hat in omitting its high-vaulting curve at the apex. Again, as to form; let us say, on the matter of the choice of patterns, that although in stripes are the most admirable dispositions of masses of colour—so we pointed out a few weeks since (*Athen.* No. 1855),—it is not given to every one to wear stripes with success. A knowledge of form alone will decide whether these or other patterns are fittest to given cases.

Upon this knowledge would depend the wearer's adherence to and practice of certain customs long since most earnestly and even pathetically condemned by physicians, ridi-

culed by artists, and abhorred by men. Under this head are the painful attempts of milliners and their victims to destroy the natural shape of the body by ligatures of any kind, whether under the name of corsets, belts, or the often-disowned "stays," which last are now only supposed to be worn in the kitchen. The use of high-heeled boots, no less than the marvellous endurance of pain from tight boots, by whatever names they may be known, attests the popular ignorance of form and contempt of nature when they invariably cause a rolling, feeble gait instead of the light poise of natural motion. The arrangement of the hair—woman's truest ornament, and rightly her peculiar pride—depends no less upon a feeling for, if not a knowledge of, form. How ludicrous are the errors of ignorance or thoughtlessness in this direction! The idle instinct of imitation rules in this matter more strongly than in any other. Women, until quite recently, adopted the method of *coiffure* proper to the Empress Eugénie without the slightest heed of nature's intentions in moulding their faces. The height of the wearer, no less than the size of her head and its shape—as to the angle of the forehead and form of nose and jaw—should determine the *coiffure*.

We commend to the student of the art of dress attention to a subject which Messrs. Audsley leave untouched. This is the *clair-obscur* of the art; its study aims at a knowledge of the effects of textures upon tints of fabrics, and is of importance in the adaptation of materials to costume. For instance, white is not always white. The white of muslin or tulle is grey compared with that of lawn, as lawn is grey in relation to linen, silk, satin or velvet. The effects of lace also might be treated with significant force, although the use of that fabric, to our minds, should be considered as analogous to that of jewelry, apart from colour. Apart from colour, or in union with it, the scientific disposition of fabrics, varying in tint as they vary in substance and texture, should be entered on with heed and forethought.

The distinctions of tone, to be cunningly studied in costume, are hardly less important than those indicated as existing in the other sections of the art of dress, above named. To know what part of the dress—taking the wearer as a "composition" in the painter's sense of the phrase—should be emphasized or brought out by local colour, or even the addition of jewelry, is not the true work of the lady's maid, or the modiste, but of the lady herself.

The third part of Messrs. Audsley's book, on "The Expression of Colour," is written with a higher aim and in a more complete manner than the sections that precede it. Although a little sentimental in feeling, there is much that is worthy of attention in the author's remarks upon the fit times and places for adoption of certain styles of costume. The art of dress is a noble art, worthy of deeper attention than has been given to it. Why does not the Art Department employ some able lecturer to demonstrate what is right and what is wrong in its modern practice? The subject would fill the benches of the theatre at South Kensington.

Lectures on the History of England. By William Longman. Vol. I. (Lectures I.—V.) From the Earliest Times to the Death of Edward II. With Maps and Illustrations. (Longman & Co.)

The matter contained in this volume has been already partly and favourably known to the public as a series of Lectures, delivered by Mr. Longman to the labouring population of a rural district in the county of Hertford. We can

think of no better service to the labouring classes of our community than to give them that sort of information on the history of their country which a gentleman well acquainted with the subject may do in a series of popular lectures,—and everybody must have welcomed the example set by Mr. Longman, in the village of Chorleywood, when he made English history his subject. Mr. William Longman's zeal not only carried him in a right direction, but led him to perform his task in a most satisfactory manner. He has been successful in adapting his style to the capacity of his hearers, to whom it was requisite to tell the main truths of history at no great length and in very plain language. The manner in which English history is here treated is indeed well suited to the purpose of such lectures, and the auditors must have gone away from them improved in mind and enlarged in understanding; but it may, perhaps, be doubted whether such a style is equally well adapted to a handsome volume in 8vo. In writing in this manner for a very imperfectly educated audience, we are apt to forget the precision of language which history requires. Thus in talking of Queen Boadicea, Mr. Longman says:—

"Notwithstanding all their success, the Romans were very far from having conquered the country, and the Britons were not disposed to allow them to remain quiet; they therefore took the field, under the command of Queen Boadicea. A great battle was fought, near where St. Albans now stands; the Britons were defeated, and Queen Boadicea killed herself in despair. But the Britons had other enemies besides the Romans. They were frequently attacked by the inhabitants of Scotland, called Picts and Scots, and to defend themselves from these internal foes, they were glad to avail themselves of the help of the Romans. To protect themselves and the Britons against these enemies, the Romans built two great walls, defended with many forts or castles, &c."

A careless reader might go from the perusal of this passage with the impression that the conquest of Britain by the Romans had been facilitated by the attacks of the Picts and Scots on the native population; whereas the Picts and Scots belong to a much later period of the Roman history. It was not, of course, the author's intention that such a construction should be put upon it, any more than he intends, in the following passage (p. 54), to say that Geoffrey Plantagenet was a King of England, who reigned three hundred years:

"I must tell you the name of the husband of Matilda, who fought for the crown with Stephen, as he was the founder of a long line of English kings. It was Geoffrey Plantagenet, the ancestor of the Plantagenet race, who sat on the throne of England for three hundred years."

Defects, even of this slight kind, are few, and in no great degree detract from the merit of Mr. Longman's attempt to make the labouring classes of England better acquainted with the history of their country. These two quotations, moreover, are taken from the first, and, as he states himself, the least finished of his Lectures. Five lectures compose the first volume, of which the first takes the whole range of English history previous to the death of King John. Under these circumstances, the subject is necessarily treated with brevity. This lecture, too, embraces the periods on which modern research and discoveries have thrown more new light than on any others, and yet they present innumerable questions which are still obscure, and on which there exists much difference of opinion. Nevertheless, we have here an account sufficiently clear to be understood by the class of hearers to whom the lecture was addressed, of the influence of the Roman dominion in the formation of society in our island, of the character which that society

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subsequently assumed, of the effects of the government and acts of the great Alfred, and of the influence of the Danish invasions. The history of the great ecclesiastical revolution of the tenth century, in which men like Dunstan appeared on the stage, and which contributed so much to the course of subsequent events, is passed over in silence—one of the consequences of condensing. The subsequent lectures do not labour under this defect, but offer sufficient summaries of English history for a class of readers considerably above the ordinary level of an agricultural population.

The second lecture forms a sort of intermediate chapter, interrupting the course of historical events, in order to explain the origin and development of the laws and government of England, and the forms and spirit in which they were administered, the knowledge of which is absolutely necessary to enable us to understand history itself; and it is desirable no doubt that this knowledge should be placed within the reach of all classes of society, and no less of the labouring classes than of the others; for, even if it produced no other profit, it would at least leave them more capable of appreciating the advantages they enjoy under the present state of things by comparing with it the condition of their forefathers. In this lecture we think that Mr. Longman has executed his task as well as it could be expected to be done within so limited a space, and that he has placed within the comprehension even of the lowest class of readers a series of important facts with which they have hitherto had hardly any acquaintance. Thus he explains the origin of property in land, the various forms of tenure it went through, and the rise and development of the feudal system. Feudalism never existed in this country with the same force as on the continent of Europe; but it influenced all English life from the arrival of the Normans, in the eleventh century, at least till the beginning of the sixteenth, and its forms, if not its spirit, may still be traced. There are also many of our national institutions older than feudalism, or which have sprung up independently of it, and with the history of which it is desirable that all Englishmen should be made acquainted.

Mr. Longman, therefore, did a good service when he conveyed this knowledge, briefly yet plainly and in sufficient detail, first to his audience of Hertfordshire agriculturists, and afterwards to the readers of his book, explaining to them the ancient division of society into classes, and the particular condition of each class, and pointing out to them how a very large portion of their ancestors, the whole class in fact to which they would have belonged, was held in the Middle Ages in the most degrading slavery. It must interest all those to whom these Lectures are addressed to be informed, in a similar popular style, of the origin and history of the laws under which they live, of our national parliament, and of the different courts of justice by which those laws are enforced. It need hardly be remarked, that our legal and constitutional antiquities present many obscure questions, in the solution of which antiquaries themselves disagree; and we are not sure that we should always adopt the view taken by our zealous lecturer. But these are generally matters of secondary interest to ordinary readers, and are here only slightly touched upon, if introduced at all. For instance, we are not inclined fully to indorse his views of the origin of feudalism; but on the more substantial questions of its form and character, and of its influence on mediæval society, there can hardly be a difference of opinion, and that opinion is very well explained by Mr. Longman. We are inclined, too, to think that the pictorial illustrations are

not always well chosen—there is one at least, in the lecture of which we are speaking, in which William the Conqueror and his barons are represented in the armour of the fifteenth century, with large rowel-spurs on their heels, and which we could wish omitted, for it only tends to give confused and erroneous notions where accuracy and truth are always desirable. The rowel-spur was not in use till the fourteenth century.

In the three other lectures in this volume the history of Henry the Third and the first and second Edward is taken, reign by reign, each reign furnishing the subject of a lecture; but we need hardly speak of them further than in general terms. We need no better proof of the difference of treatment of the subject in the first lecture and in those that follow than the fact that, in the former, the reign of King John occupies five pages, while that of Henry the Third, made the subject of an entire lecture, extends through ninety-two pages. From this time English history takes its due development in Mr. Longman's hands, and he has treated it, in regard to itself and to the especial audience to which he addressed himself, with judgment and success. The picture he gives of Henry's weaknesses and tyranny, the great struggle between English independence and the usurpations of foreigners, the baronial war, and the conduct and fate of Simon de Montfort, and the final influence of this war on English society and the English constitution, is fair and truthful, and just such as we could wish to be placed before Englishmen in general. The reigns of Edward the First, justly regarded by Mr. Longman as the greatest of our Plantagenet monarchs, and of his weak and unfortunate son, are equally well handled. We wish that gentlemen in other parts of the country were moved by the same zeal, and enabled by the same knowledge, to instruct in the truths of English history their less highly-educated neighbours.

Recollections and Anecdotes: being a Second Series of Reminiscences of the Camp, the Court and the Clubs. By Capt. R. H. Gronow. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

THE proverb which condemns all sequels and continuations as so much labour wasted will find a new illustration in the Second Series of Capt. Gronow's 'Recollections and Anecdotes.' The 'Reminiscences' were lively enough to amuse an idle hour—a rainy morning at the sea-side, or the interval between the ride and the dressing-bell at a country house. The old Guardsman had fought at Waterloo—had staked his napoleons at Parisian tables—had haunted clubs, hells and *coulisses*—had chatted with eminent men and dined with literary lions; in fact, he had seen the world and had some stories to tell of it. When he had told his little anecdotes he should have put the pen down for ever. The spirit of the wine evaporated when the cork was drawn; and what is now produced from the bottle has the flatness of yesterday's champagne. In the whole 232 pages we have only marked three or four little anecdotes as either new or good; and the reader may judge the quality of the volume by these, its finest specimens:—

"*Captain Curzon.*—Among the many episodes of a battle field, there are none so touching as the last moments of a brave soldier. Capt. Curzon, son of Lord Scarsdale, was on the staff, and received a mortal wound towards the end of the battle, and lay bleeding to death by the side of his favourite charger, one of whose legs had been shattered by a cannon ball. As Lord March was passing by, Curzon had just strength to call to him, 'Get me help, my dear March, for I fear it is all over with me.' Lord March hastened to look for a surgeon,

and found one belonging to the first battalion of our regiment, who went to the poor fellow's assistance; but, alas! life was extinct before the doctor arrived. The doctor, in relating this event to us afterwards, said, 'I found poor Curzon dead, leaning his head upon the neck of his favourite horse, who seemed to be aware of the death of his master, so quiet did it remain, as if afraid to disturb his last sleep. As I approached, it neighed feebly, and looked at me as if it wanted relief from the pain of its shattered limb, so I told a soldier to shoot it through the head to put it out of its pain. The horse as well as its master were both old acquaintances of mine, and I was quite upset by the sight of them lying dead together.' This tribute of sympathy and feeling was the more remarkable as coming from the doctor, who was one of the hardest and roughest diamonds I ever remember to have known; but on this occasion something moved him, and he had tears in his eyes as he related the incident."

"*The Duke's Razors.*—My friend, George Smythe, the late Lord Strangford, once told me that, staying at Walmer Castle with the Duke of Wellington, the Duke informed him, one morning at breakfast, that he was obliged to go up to London immediately, as all his razors required setting, but he would be back to dinner. Lord Strangford very naturally offered to lend the Duke his razors, which, luckily for the Duke, he did not accept; for Lord S., who was somewhat careless about his personal appearance, shaved with razors something like miniature saws, which made one shudder to look at. Lord S. then offered to take the razors to Dover, but the Duke replied—'The man who always sharpens my razors has sharpened them for many years: I would not trust them with any one else. He lives in Jermyn Street, and there they must go. So you see, Strangford, every man has a weak point, and my weak point is about the sharpening of my razors. Perhaps you are not aware that I shave myself, and brush my own clothes: I regret that I cannot clean my own boots; for men-servants bore me, and the presence of a crowd of idle fellows annoys me more than I can tell you.'

"*Eugène Sue.*—Eugène Sue was the very reverse of Balzac, both in appearance and manner. Nothing could have been more correct and scrupulously neat than his dress, which was rather dandified, but in good taste, according to the notions of twenty or thirty years ago. He wore always a very broad-brimmed hat, of glossy newness, and remarkably tight, light-coloured trousers: which, by-the-by, were not particularly becoming to a man built in a stout mould; but a Frenchman who cannot diminish the rotundity of his abdomen, generally revenges himself upon his legs, which he circumscribes in the smallest possible compass, giving himself very much the appearance of what we Englishmen are taught to believe to be his national characteristic and prototype—a frog. * * He was remarkable for the beauty of his horses; his cab was one of the best-appointed in Paris; his house in the Rue de la Pépinière (now an asylum) was a perfect 'bonbonnière,' and his dinners were renowned for their excellence. He was supposed (and to my knowledge with considerable reason) to lead a very Sardanapalian life. Strange stories are told of his castle in Sologne, where he was waited on by a number of beautiful women, of all countries, and of all shades of colour."

Grave readers would not thank us for quoting more of this very small talk. Idle gossip may find more of it in Capt. Gronow's book.

A Tour in Tartan-Land. By Cuthbert Bede. (Bentley.)

It is unfortunate for the author, who adopts as his *nom de plume* the names of two historical ecclesiastics, that he started as a funny writer, for his early habit clings to him and mars endeavours that are, doubtless, meant as improvements upon his first appearances in print. A number of small jokes scattered through the present volume lead us to believe that the habit has become chronic; that Mr. Cuthbert Bede must try to be funny at all events,—mistaking, apparently, the reader's smile of pity for

one of sympathy. He remarks, for example, after giving up his intention of lodging at the *George Hotel*, in Glasgow, in favour of the *Queen's*, on the persuasion of a porter, "that the porter's recommendation had proceeded from very satisfactory premises, and had conducted him to premises equally satisfactory". Edinburgh should have a temple to *Aeolus*, because "it is not only the city of the Wynds but of the Winds also"; a stiff sou'-wester blowing in the same city is described as "*Boreas*"; the Tweed, at Melrose, "murmurs musically on its way," or, as we are informed in a note, "if it does not, it ought to do, for the water at Melrose now belongs to the Messrs. Broadwood of pianoforte renown"; and speaking of the extensive view commanded by the summit of the Eildons (which, by the way, he did not take the trouble to see for himself) Mr. Bede tells us it is plainly stated in *black and white*, that is, in Black's '*Picturesque Tourist*' and Mr. Walter White's '*Northumberland and the Border*'.

If, from these specimens, the reader should infer the general character of the book, he will come to a safe conclusion. The '*Tour in Tartan-land*' occupies more than four hundred pages, descriptive, historical and critical, fortified by quotations from Scott and Tytler, Robert Chambers and Wordsworth, N. P. Willis and Mrs. Stowe; and the Tartan-land thus treated of includes those well-known haunts of tourists, Edinburgh and Roslin, Glasgow and Greenock, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, and Melrose and Abbotsford. Territory so familiar demands special qualifications on the part of the traveller who undertakes to describe it or to print the impressions it has made on his mind. These qualifications, if possessed, are not exhibited by the author in the present volume, for many of his details are trivial and threadbare.

Then we must protest against being told the same thing two or three times over. "This same carriage will run all the way from King's Cross to Glasgow," exclaims Mr. Bede on starting. "In eleven and a half hours you will have travelled 400 miles," he says, on passing through Edinburgh; and, in the next page, on his arrival at Glasgow, we find, "in the last thirteen hours and a half we have travelled nearly 450 miles, without so much as a change of carriage or the slightest anxiety respecting luggage, for here it all is, in the very same luggage-van that brought it from King's Cross this morning." And was there any need to tell the reader four times in two pages, directly and indirectly, that the rock of Dumbarton is better seen from the railway than from a steamboat on the river?

Six chapters of the book are given to Glasgow, with comments on art and architecture as exemplified by the sculptures and buildings of that busy city. The statement that the Broomielaw Bridge, being wider than London Bridge, is the "widest in the world," was, we should think, written before the present Westminster Bridge was built. Mr. Bede recommends the erection of a statue to a Glasgow worthy named Flakefield, whose claims to notice are thus stated:—

"His proper name was Wilson, but when he and his father and brother settled in Glasgow, towards the close of the seventeenth century, William was commonly called Flakefield (from the place where he had lived, in the parish of East Kilbride), in order to distinguish him from his brother. He joined the Scottish Guards, and went to the continent, where the object that most fascinated him was a German handkerchief, woven in blue and white chequers. He had been brought up as a weaver, and he could appreciate its excellence. He determined to weave one like it—if he could—when the time and opportunity offered. They came in the year 1700, when he had returned to Glasgow,

and changed his sword for a shuttle. He had brought with him his cherished chequered handkerchief, and after overcoming many obstacles, succeeded in making one like it. Soon he had a dozen ready for sale. They were the first of the kind ever woven in Great Britain. They were at once successful; looms rapidly increased; and in a few years, Glasgow had become famous for this new branch of the linen-trade. It proved most lucrative to everyone but its inventor and introducer, who died in poverty, occupying the position of town drummer. Such, briefly, is the history of one of the benefactors of the city. The question is, shall William Flakefield have a statue? Glasgow is liberal of statues to her worthiest sons. Let her remember with honour this too-long forgotten weaver; but when she raises a monument to his memory, let not one of the bas-reliefs that may possibly ornament the pedestal of the statue represent William Flakefield in his decadence as the town drummer."

For squalor, vice and drunkenness, Glasgow appears to maintain its pre-eminence among the cities of the empire. "The filthy hotbed for their rapid development," writes Cuthbert Bede, "is a singular combination of St. Giles's, Rag Fair, Billingsgate, Monmouth Street, and the Seven Dials, with bad additions peculiar to the locality." The pages in which the author describes these localities are among the best in the book.

The western end of Loch Katrine, if deficient in the picturesque, has a compensation in the mechanical, which to some tourists is more than an equivalent:—

"This is the entrance to the tunnel of the Glasgow Waterworks, a tunnel 8 feet in diameter, 2,325 yards in length, and 600 feet below the summit of the mountain under which it passes, and the first of a series of seventy distinct tunnels, having an aggregate of thirteen miles, which assist in conveying the water of Loch Katrine, by an aqueduct thirty-four miles long, to the city of Glasgow. This is one of the most gigantic engineering works of modern times, and surpasses the greatest of the nine famous aqueducts which fed the city of Rome. It has also the special peculiarity of being a tunnel for nearly half its length. To cross the rugged district of thirty-four miles that intervenes between Loch Katrine and Glasgow, difficulties of no ordinary nature had to be overcome. Successive ridges of obdurate rock, separated by deep wild glens and mountain torrents, had to be traversed. The hard schistose groups, the old red sandstone, and the compact clay slate which constitute the geological character of the Highland mountains were bored, blasted, and perforated to form a subterranean passage to the stream which was destined to cool the parched throat of the great city. The very blasting materials cost, on the average, about 2,000/- a mile; the expense of the works was something near 800,000/-, and the entire expense (with compensation for land, &c.) 1,500,000/- Loch Katrine was selected as the fountain head, not only from the well-known purity of its water, but also from its elevation (360 feet above the sea), and from its being fed by a large amount of annual rainfall. The purity of its water is so great that Glasgow is probably supplied with a nearer approach to distilled water than any other city in Great Britain."

There was talk a few years ago of bringing the water of the Lake of Bala to London in a similar way. Will the feat ever be accomplished?

Eleven chapters are devoted to Edinburgh, Roslin and Hawthornden. Mr. Bede tried to discover a Christie Johnstone among the Newhaven fishwives, but was unsuccessful. He, however, did not fail to recognize the merits of Edinburgh, and leaves it to be inferred that he agrees with those who regard the northern metropolis as the handsomest city in Europe. Among the gossip on its archaeological features, we notice John Knox's denunciation of the

organ as "a kist fu' of whistles," which we have an impression of having seen before.

The chief defect of the book is its want of local colour. Change the names of the places, and it would do as well for any other country as for Tartan-land. And yet what a series of real Scottish pictures and what touches of Scottish character might an observant tourist have discovered in that region! — a region which comprehends scenery fraught with the highest beauty and the most interesting associations, and with peculiar achievements of industry. We, who have walked all through that country, and across the district of the great lochs to the western sea, and noted the earnest character of the people, their ways of living, and their industrial and moral resources, as well as the land which they cultivate and inhabit, hoped for a revival of our impressions by perusal of Mr. Bede's book, but to our regret, we have been disappointed.

The New Testament for English Readers: containing the Authorized Version, with Marginal Corrections of Readings and Renderings; Marginal References; and a Critical and Explanatory Commentary. By Henry Alford, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. Vol. I. Part I.—*The Three First Gospels.* (Rivingtons.)

This work is not meant to be a *popular* edition of the New Testament. It is adapted to the use of persons who have had some cultivation of mind, such as the majority of the mercantile classes and Christian women in the middle ranks of life. The notes are chiefly an abridgment and modification of those in the author's edition of the Greek Testament. They are not very numerous, though sometimes lengthened out on obscure passages. The Dean's continued studies in the Greek Testament have familiarized him with the contents of that volume; and nothing else could be expected from his pen than a commentary replete with evidences of good sense, judgment and ability. His general competence for the task might be assumed; and the notes justify the assumption, being pertinent, useful and properly exegetical, well suited to the comprehension of intelligent readers. We have perused many of them with conscious approval. Yet we disagree with the author's opinions in not a few places. The Dean has availed himself of the labours of German scholars, without fear of being tainted with their supposed dangerous notions. Had not De Wette and Meyer written commentaries, the English theologian could not have produced his Testament in its present state. From these "rationalistic" sources, as he would call them, he has drawn very freely, as well as from the more "evangelical" works of Olshausen and Stier.

In turning to the difficult places of the three Gospels to examine the notes upon them we have been disappointed. They are not cleared up to the satisfaction of thinkers, however much they may satisfy readers who never penetrate below the surface. The author has no key to the right interpretation of many phenomena in the Gospels, nor does he appear to follow throughout a primary principle of interpretation, viz., that the words of Scripture have one sense only,—that single sense intended by the sacred writers themselves. Like many others, Dr. Alford puts a variety of senses into the same words of the Old Testament, and violates a fundamental rule which every sound exegete faithfully follows. It is plain also that the commentator is no Hebraist; and therefore quotations from the Old Testament, as well as allusions and references to it in the Gospels, are imperfectly or erroneously apprehended.

In these cases he should follow the great masters of Hebrew criticism, instead of leaning upon his own knowledge, which is superficial and often incorrect.

As long as the author holds to the Greek original of Matthew he will never explain aright many parts of that Gospel. Hence we are not surprised to find the twenty-fourth chapter badly interpreted.

It is painful to observe occasional manifestations of a dogmatical and intolerant spirit unworthy of an ecclesiastical dignitary, but, unhappily, not infrequent in the present day. Thus in a long note on "dæmoniacal possessions," he writes:—

"This remarkable narrative brings before us the whole question of DÆMONIACAL POSSESSIONS in the Gospels, which I shall treat here once for all, and refer to this note hereafter. I would then remark in general (I. 1), that the Gospel narratives are distinctly pledged to the historic truth of these occurrences. Either they are true, or the Gospels are false. For they do not stand in the same, or a similar position, with the discrepancies in detail, so frequent between the Evangelists: but they form part of that general groundwork in which all agree. (2.) Nor can it be said that they represent the opinion of the time, and use words in accordance with it. This might have been difficult to answer, but that they not only give such expressions as possessed with devils, demonized (Mark v. 16; Luke viii. 36), and other like ones, but relate to us words spoken by the Lord Jesus, in which the personality and presence of the demons is distinctly implied. See especially Luke xi. 17-26. Now either our Lord spoke these words, or He did not. If He did not, then we must at once set aside the concurrent testimony of the Evangelists to a plain matter of fact; in other words, establish a principle which will overthrow equally every fact related in the Gospels."

Dogmatism like this on such a point will strike good critics with amazement. The whole note is laboured. In the same style is the following, though it is hardly so offensive:—

"The whole is undoubtedly an objective historical narrative, recording an actual conflict between our Redeemer and the Power of Evil."

Here is a worse specimen of intolerance thrust into a place with which it has no proper connexion:—

"I say this, because it is always in contempt and setting aside of the O. T. that rationalism has begun. First, its historical truth—then its theocratic dispensation and the types and prophecies connected with it, are swept away; so that Christ came to fulfil nothing, and becomes only a teacher or a martyr: and thus the way is paved for a similar rejection of the N. T.,—beginning with the narratives of the birth and infancy, as theocratic myths—advancing to the denial of His miracles—then attacking the truthfulness of His own sayings which are grounded on the O. T. as a revelation from God—and so finally leaving us nothing in the Scriptures but, as a German writer of this school has expressed it, 'a mythology not so attractive as that of Greece.' That this is the course which unbelief has run in Germany, should be a pregnant warning to the decriers of the O. T. among ourselves. It should be a maxim for every expositor and every student, that Scripture, is a whole, and stands or falls together. That this is now beginning to be deeply felt in Germany, we have cheering testimonies in the later editions of their best commentators, and in the valuable work of Stier on the discourses of Our Lord. [Since however these words were first written, we have had lamentable proof in England, that their warnings were not unneeded. The course of unbelief which has issued in the publication of the volume entitled 'Essays and Reviews,' has been in character and progress, exactly that above described: and owing to the injudicious treatment which has multiplied tenfold the circulation of that otherwise contemptible work, its fallacies are now in the hands and mouths of thousands, who, from the low standard of intelligent Scriptural knowledge among us, will never

have the means of answering them. 1862. To this it may now be added, that even a Bishop of the Church of England has come before the world as a champion of that unbelief, in its first phase as described above. We may hope that his work, judging from the blunders already detected in the renderings of Hebrew words on which his arguments are founded, will soon be added to the catalogue of attacks by which the enemies of our holy faith have damaged nothing save their own reputation and influence. 1863.]"

Dr. Alford ought to know that first-rate critics, actuated by as strong love of truth as himself, explain the greater part of the first two chapters of Matthew's Gospels as unhistorical. They may be wrong in doing so; but he has no reason for asserting that they wish to undermine the foundations of Christianity. Perhaps he is not aware that the greatest master of dogmatic theology now living, Richard Rothe, holds the accounts of the infancy of Jesus in Matthew and Luke to be legendary.

The writer avows that he is a believer in what is called "plenary inspiration"; which serves to account for the air with which he takes the New Testament under his protection. He admits discrepancies in the Gospels—real discrepancies,—but believes that they arise from our imperfect acquaintance with all the details, and from the fragmentary character of the Gospels themselves. They would cease to exist had the inspired writers been led to write full accounts of all the sayings and doings of Jesus and his disciples.

With all the commentator's strivings after consistency, he has not observed it in every case. A free idea sometimes escapes from his pen: thus he says, that "the apostles regarded the coming of the Lord as near, and conceived the possibility of their living to behold it." In another place he speaks of "expressions which occur in the earlier of Paul's epistles, and seem to indicate expectation of His almost immediate coming, being gradually modified and replaced by others speaking in a very different strain." Hence the apostles believed and wrote differently at different times; while they "testified that which was true. The Spirit of Truth dwelt in them specially for this purpose." "The men were full of the Holy Ghost, the books are the pouring out of that fullness through them, the conservation of the treasure in earthen vessels." Yet "the men full of the Holy Ghost" wrote at one time in the belief that they might live to see the second coming of the Lord; at another, expressions of this kind were replaced by others in a very different strain. So says the Dean. "The reader will find in my Commentary no sympathy whatever with the rationalistic school." "If I understand plenary inspiration rightly, I hold it to the utmost." Is it not opposed to these asseverations to affirm, that the apostles believed and wrote differently at different times about the coming of the Lord?

Dean Alford has yet much to learn respecting the criticism and meaning of the New Testament. Hence his tone should be different. It is unbecoming to speak of Meyer and others in the language he employs. Many of the notes in his volume are founded on a very imperfect acquaintance with the results of the highest criticism.

NEW NOVELS.

Respectable Sinners. By Mrs. Brotherton. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

'Respectable Sinners' is very clever; the title is a happy one,—the style is bright and lively,—and the characters, with one exception, are human beings. The exception is the hero, Edward Hartley, who is "two single gentlemen rolled into one"—morally, not personally, for

in person he is tall, straight and handsome, as a hero should be; but the Edward Hartley who begins the story is not and never could have become the Edward Hartley who ends it. A selfish, artful, lazy, unfeeling man, full of vanity and sentimentality, would have required a stronger influence than the mere sight of the fatal consequence of jealousy inspired by him in the heart of a worthy husband, to transform him into a faithful, hardworking friend and a loving husband to his own wife. This is how the mischief and the miracle both come about. Mrs. Ashton, a spoiled but loving little woman, is left a widow at the beginning of the story. Coming home from India with her only child, a little girl, Mrs. Ashton is still a beauty, and had been an heiress, till she chose to run away with her military lover and aggravate her papa, a remorseless Turk of the parental species. Contrary to the general run of experience, the match turned out a happy one: the husband was an excellent man, who set himself to prevent her ever feeling the worldly sacrifice she had made; so she had all the pleasure of feeling herself a magnanimous heroine—the wife of a poor man—without having to feel the pinch of poverty. A brother of her husband, who is the good genius of their lives and of the story, had enabled them to live thus pleasantly. After the death of the husband he continues to be the good genius of the wife. The character of Mr. Ashton is beautiful, and the reader regrets that he appears so seldom in person, though his influence pervades the story. A Mr. Hartley, of Hartley Hall, appears on the scene: he is the respectable sinner *en chef*. He persuades the dear little widow to marry him,—who has reason to repent it once, which is always; but the way in which she manages her destiny is very clever, and does not oppress the reader in the least. She is a sensible woman in the main, and not the least of a victim. But the respectable sinner has a son, who falls in love with the widow's daughter, and it is the relation of their love and married life which forms the staple of the story. We are sorry to say that Edward Hartley is much more natural as the unreclaimed husband, qualified for an appearance before Sir Cresswell, than as the reformed model husband he subsequently becomes, in a fit of remorse at the sight of his own mischief; but our readers must consult the original for themselves.

Some of the accessory characters are excellent. Robert Hartley, the excommunicated half-brother of the respectable sinner, is very touching, though his fate is unnecessarily severe. The silly, vain, unfeeling beauty, Mrs. Drewe, the pseudo-'Madonna,' is extremely clever; her letter, which forms the crisis of the story, is very like a real epistle. All the crop of subordinate characters have each some sharp, incisive trait of individuality; and although the story is not well put together, and the final machinery by which wrong is made right and the "ancestral hall" comes back to its rightful owner, is a time-honoured expedient which happens nowhere so often as in novels,—still, seeing that it is always crowned with success, and the right individuals always profit by it, a reader would be unreasonable to object; and the novel is, with all the faults to which a critic might object, a readable, entertaining book.

Chesterford, and some of its People. By the Author of 'A Bad Beginning.' (Smith, Elder & Co.)

'Chesterford' begins well: the first volume is as clever and pleasant as a novel need be; but it falls off most provokingly at the beginning of the second volume, and does not rally

again. The interest crumbles away, and the characters along with it: there is not breadth of incident for three volumes. The characters are well sketched and set on their feet; but when it comes to the question of whither they are to go, the author keeps them dawdling about, turning down long passages that seem destined to lead to pleasant places; but they "lead to nothing," and the writer, and the reader, and the characters have to try back to something else. There are two young ladies, rivals: the one preferred by John Parkholme, the hero, has a foolish way of laughing and being amused by the weak jokes of very inferior young men, which, though only "pretty Fanny's way," is a source of torment and misapprehension to her very umbrageous lover. When a child, Parkholme had kept company with a relative, a young curate, who had been jilted by the lady of his love, she having married a rich merchant instead of him. This young curate has so possessed the ear and prejudiced the imagination of his relative of tender age, that he has grown up a confirmed woman-hater, believing that all feminine charms and virtues were so many cruel wiles to lure men to misery. He has consequently very little faith and less insight to help him to find his way through the perplexities of a first love affair. The cousin of his lady-love, a very unprincipled and reprehensible young woman, becomes spontaneously enamoured of Mr. Parkholme, and endeavours to make mischief and to divert the course of true love from its lawful channel, by telling falsehoods, suppressing letters, and finally by a passionate declaration of her own attachment, which Parkholme has strength of mind to resist, but he has not enough to believe in the true affection of Katherine Lyndon. So he compromises matters,—he rejects the cousin, sets Katherine free from her engagement to him, and resolves to go out to India, having previously lost all his property in a way rather awkward and not cleverly managed by the author. At last, however, when he has taken every foolish precaution to make himself and Katherine miserable, one of those accidents which depend on the opening of a door or the ringing of a bell, changes the face of his prospects; poor Katherine is allowed a voice in the decision, and she convinces him how ill he has used her, and how little he deserves her, though she herself believes him perfect and takes all blame to herself; so they come to a final understanding and are married out of the way of further mischief-making. This is the main plot of the story; there are many loose threads of incidental and independent narrative, which might all be separate stories, so little relation do they bear to the chief story. The history of Polly Peacock and the young Farmer Alston promises some interest, but, in spite of the fatal accident that causes his death,—it ends in nothing. The author does not know how to bind a story together. The sketches of individual character are good and spirited, but then the people do not act after they have been created; they talk, but it all leads to nothing,—and we are sorry to say that, with a great deal of cleverness, 'Chesterford' is by no means a satisfactory story.

Victor Hugo, told by a Witness of his Life, &c.

—[*Victor Hugo, raconté par un Témoin de sa Vie. Avec œuvres inédites de Victor Hugo; entre autres, un Dramen en Trois Actes, "Inez de Castro".*] Vols. I. and II. (Brussels, Lacroix & Co.; London, Barthés & Lowell.)

THE story of such a life as M. Victor Hugo's, told by a Witness, can hardly fail to be a tale which will make Europe sit still to listen. But

there is some insincerity in the invitation. Why should it not have been frankly announced that the book is, to all intents and purposes, an Autobiography? The Witness knows all about M. Hugo's ancestry; and in heaping together all manner of anecdotes of his childhood, says, "This is what Victor remembers"—this impression was made by such a ruin, or such an historical event, or such a book read, or such a tinsel tragedy seen, on the apprehensive mind of a boy marked by Genius for a grand destiny. What is more, those familiar with the writings of the author of 'Notre Dame,' 'Le Rhin,' and 'Lucrèce Borgia' must be satisfied without being unduly speculative, that it is his hand which has wrought up descriptions, given to paragraphs their final sting, and, with true theatrical art, adjusted the red and the white, and the black eyebrows, and the hair streaming—

like a meteor on the troubled air,

employed to deck the figure of the hero. These affectations surprise no one. They are part and parcel of the man; they beoken that consciousness which keeps him a cubit below the stature of the mighty ones of Europe—a consciousness, it is true, which has urged many a first-class author at the beginning of his career, but which falls away from most as Life goes on, and shows them other worlds of sin and of suffering and of sympathy than their own. On the other hand, M. Hugo's egotism has grown upon him. He is no longer the man who wrote 'Le Dernier Jour,'—who told so exquisitely the story of Paquette de la Chantefleurie in his 'Notre Dame'; and his pompous self-occupation is to be felt in every line of the book before us.

M. Victor Hugo's father, Joseph Léopold Sigisbert, born in 1774, was one of eight sons, most, if not all, of whom were devoted to military service, and five of whom fell in the wars. Three years after his entry into the army, he was promoted; and some remembrance of his passage through the shade and shine of an eventful period in France is still preserved by the Witness of his third son's life. Louis the Sixteenth was recollected by him as a coarse, hobbling, ill-dressed man, whose silk stockings were kept round his legs by red worsted garters; the Queen—Walpole's and Burke's Marie-Antoinette—as a woman with her hair grizzled by care, ere she passed through the well-known night which has become a point in history; and who, by smiling at the Guards as she passed, showed that her teeth were decaying. Léopold Hugo married the daughter of an armourer of Nantes, and, the Witness tells us, "children did not keep the pair waiting." Two sons having been born, the parents longed for the variety of a daughter; but Victorine failed in making her appearance, as perverely as did *Betsy Trotwood* in the well-known novel. Instead came Victor; but he was so small a baby that the medical man declared he could not live. Such prophecies are as old as births or deaths. The Witness of M. Hugo's life dwells with peculiar complacency on the bad shape and scarcely human look of this third Hugo baby. He remembers for himself, among the first things, a well and a willow-tree in the Rue de Clichy of Paris, his going to school, and his playing in private theatricals with the daughter of his schoolmaster, Mdlle. Rose, as the child in 'Geneviève de Brabant.' He was dressed in tights and a sheepskin, with a metal claw; and he remembers too, how, with the same, he picked at the legs of Mdlle. Rose.

Let us pass these puerilities—such as befit the babblings of a Genlis, of a George Sand even, but not a Witness of the life of a great man, who drapes himself according to the fashion of a modern Marius, and as such gives

out oracles. The first volume is too largely made up of trifles of this kind, intermixed with more showy historical episodes, such as the other day broke the thread of the tale of 'Les Misérables.' Suffice it to say, that the Hugo family followed their father and the fortunes of the army, went into Spain, and that this picture was seen by the author of 'Ernani' in embryo—on the road :—

Ernani is a village with a single street—a very large and fine one. This street is pebbled with a kind of pointed and glittering stone. When the sun is up, one might fancy one's self walking on spangles. All the inhabitants are nobles, whence all the houses have arms sculptured on the stones of their pediments. These escutcheons, for the most part of the fifteenth century, are of a fine character, and give a grand air to Ernani. These seigniorial houses are, nevertheless, rustic ones,—and their feudal pediments do not suit ill with their rude wooden balconies. For they wear this coarse carpentry as proudly as they do their armorial bearings—like the Castilian shepherds, in whose hands a crook has the air of a sceptre.

There is no mistaking the paternity of this paragraph,—nor of that a page or two later, which tells how ominously unlucky Victor was in his favourite playmates,—once having had his finger bitten by a dog, once his knee wounded by a schoolfellow. "He has preserved the scars," tells the Witness,—"for everything disappears, except wounds." Much is remembered by him about the commissariat of Spain,—how the Hugo children loathed the wine and oil. This, too, may be commended as the autobiography in which occurs the largest number of stories about omelettes. Then, there is an anecdote about a regiment surprised by Queen Julia, "in the entr'acte of its shirts," and another of Victor's "first encounter with the scaffold" at Burgos, where a man was garrotted,—which assign this book to its real parent. On returning to Paris, Madame Hugo's boys went to school. We next have a list of the stupidities which Victor committed before he was born,—in other words, of his early attempts at authorship. These were "odes, satires, epistles, poems, tragedies, elegies, idylls, imitations of Ossian" (just then the fashion in France), "translations of Virgil, Horace, Lucan, Ausonius, Martial; romances, fables, tales, epigrams, madrigals, logographies, acrostics, charades, enigmas, impromptus." He even wrote a comic opera,—also a poem of five hundred lines, entitled 'The Deluge,' of which there were twenty bad ones, thirty-two good, fifteen very good, five passable, and one weak one. Of the other four hundred lines the Witness can give no account. It has been thought worth while to exhume some of these "stupidities," which prove not so promising as

the duck

Which Samuel Johnson trod on.

More worthy, perhaps, is the melo-drama in three acts, and two interludes on that untenable Spanish story, which, nevertheless, has tempted many dramatists, our own Miss Mitford and Leigh Hunt among the number,—the sad fate and ghastly coronation after death of Iñez de Castro. In this may be distinctly traced that passion for frightful effects, and withal that epigrammatic command of language, which made (so to say) an epoch on the day when the "theatre" of M. Hugo was opened, by the impossible 'Cromwell,' with its preface, adopted as a declaration of war betwixt Classicism and Romanticism,—and later, by the contested success of his first violent assault of the French stage, the drama of 'Ernani.'

The world is apprised by the Witness that Victor was an eccentric scholar, who could have distinguished himself in any and in every branch of study, had it pleased him so to do:—

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In the year of special mathematics he was remarkable for his application by the Professor of the morning class, M. Laran. But one day that Professor, a lean and a tall man, raised himself suddenly in his chair, leaned forward, and thrust out his neck, which could envelop itself like an opera-glass. Then he saw that the thing over which Victor was busying himself so conscientiously, yet without absence of mind, which was nailling his eyes to the table, was a volume of the 'Génie du Christianisme,' adroitly hidden away behind a barricade, consisting of his inkstand, his class-books and his cap. The book was confiscated, and the pupil was threatened with being expelled on the next occasion of reading anything short of a mathematical book. So that Victor had no resource save with penknife to cut his name on the table, with date, comment and decoration.

In the second volume we arrive at matters containing something more of substance than the affected triflings we have represented. The young ode-writer began to make some sensation in the Royalist circles of Paris. De Chateaubriand called him "a sublime youth," and attested his admiration for the poet who put into rhyme the Due de Berry's murder by offering to him some condescending objections. The young author was as keenly alive to the made-up sublimities of the elder one as if he knew nothing about attitudinizing in his own person and poetry:

De Chateaubriand (says he) affected a military appearance. The man of the pen could not forget the man of the sword. His throat was stiffened by a black stock, which concealed the collar of his shirt—a black frock-coat, buttoned to the chin, strengthened his little, stooping body. What was fine about him was his head, which was in proportion with his figure, and was noble and grave. The nose was firm and imperious in line, the eye proud, the smile charming—but the smile was a mere flash, and the mouth soon resumed its severe and haughty expression.

The young poet was but indifferently contented with his reception and with the praises, spiced with criticisms, doled out to him. M. Hugo's mother, however, like a true mother, felt that De Chateaubriand was not an acquaintance to be neglected by a young man of letters, and insisted on his repeating his visit to the Rue Saint-Dominique:

The same servant opened the door. This time M. de Chateaubriand received him in his room. In passing through the *salon* he ran against Madame Chateaubriand, who, though the hour was early, was going out, in one of those tight bonnets which were then the fashion in the Faubourg St. Germain. Victor, who at his first visit had seen her imperfectly, because she then had her back to the light, and the evening was already falling, now saw a great, lean woman, with a dry face, marked with the small-pox. She did not stop for the sake of the little young man, but condescended to make him a slight bow. When Victor entered, M. de Chateaubriand, in his shirt-sleeves, and with a silk handkerchief tied round his head, was seated at a table, with his back turned to the door. He was busy among his papers, and turned round with cordiality. "Ah! good-day, Monsieur Victor Hugo; I expected you. Sit down. Well, have you been at work since I saw you?"—"Yes; have not you?"—"Have you made many verses?"—Victor replied that he was always at work a little.—"Quite right in so doing. Verses are literature of a high class. You are on a level higher than mine. The true writer is the poet. I, too, used to make verses, and regret that I have not gone on with them. My verses were worth more than my prose. Do you know, I have written a tragedy. Stop, I must read you a scene. Pilorge, come here, I want you."—An individual, red-haired, red-whiskered, red-faced, appeared.—"Go and find me the manuscript of 'Moise.'" Pilorge was M. de Chateaubriand's secretary, and had not a sinecure place of it. Without making any account of manuscripts, correspondence alone took up an enormous amount of his time; because, besides the original letters which

he wrote, and which M. de Chateaubriand signed, Pilorge had to make a duplicate for a register, in which the illustrious writer, attentive to posterity, previously preserved his smallest notes. Pilorge had, also, the duty of classing and numbering all the letters received at the house. The secretary brought in the manuscript called for. The author of 'Rêve' then read with pomp and conviction dialogue and then a chorus imitated from the choruses of 'Athalie' and 'Esther,' which did not prove to his listener that M. de Chateaubriand had reason for preferring his verse to his prose. Victor tried to find it very fine, and arrived at admiring this line of the chorus—

Et souvent la douleur s'apaise par des chants,
to which he clung as to a plank which saved him from the wreck. The domestic who had opened the door now brought in an immense tub full of water. M. de Chateaubriand untied his handkerchief, and took off his green morocco slippers. Victor would have taken leave, but the host kept him, and went on coolly to undress himself, to take off his grey trousers, shirt, flannel waistcoat, and got into the tub, where his servant washed and rubbed him. After he was dried and dressed again, he made the toilette of his teeth, which were very fine, and for which he had a dentist's whole apparatus. Freshened up by his evolutions in the tub, he began to converse eagerly, cleaning his teeth the while. * * * It was not without a secret joy that Victor learned that M. de Chateaubriand was appointed Ambassador at Berlin. He went to offer his congratulations and to say good-bye.—"How good-bye!" said the Ambassador; "why, you are going with me." Victor's eyes opened wide. "Yes," replied the master; "I have had you attached to the Embassy, without asking your leave, and I shall carry you off." Victor thanked him cordially for his good intention, but replied that he could not leave his mother. "Is your mother the only obstacle?" was M. de Chateaubriand's question, with a smile.—"Well, you are free. But I am sorry the thing cannot be. It would have been honourable to both of us." Madame de Chateaubriand came into her husband's study. She had never spoken to Victor, and never seemed to know him. He was, therefore, surprised to see her come up to him, smiling. "M. Hugo," said she, "I count on you, and you must help me to do a good deed. I have an infirmary for poor old priests, which costs me more money than I have; but then I have a manufactory of chocolate. I sell it rather dear, but then it is excellent. Would you like a pound?"—"Madame," said Victor, who had on his mind the high and mighty airs of Madame de Chateaubriand, and who felt the necessity of extinguishing her, "I will take three pounds."—Madame de Chateaubriand was extinguished—but Victor had not a sou left.

As we go on we get glimpses revealed to us, no less artfully, of Lamennais, who, for awhile, was M. Hugo's confessor, and of other more heterodox lions and lionesses. M. Soumet introduced him to two declining Dalilahs, Mdlles. Duchesnois and Leverd, and the pure youth was shocked to hear how M. Soumet *the'd* and *thou'd* them; and to see how old they were, and what naked necks and bare backs they displayed at the theatre, where they took the youth and set him between them, and fought for him. He confessed this vast *peccadillo* to Lamennais, and had not a hard penance, therefore, enjoined on him.

The account of his literary struggles into daylight has more pith and value than these coquettices with recollection. His odes had announced him as a poet, Monsieur de Chateaubriand had authenticated them; and, yet more, the lively interest and admiration of the young men of Paris also, who during that period were fermenting not merely with the desire of throwing off the trammels of all schools of Art, but partaking of the generic semi-political, semi-sensual French passion of enjoying an orgie. It may have been already inferred, even by those who have followed our cursory notice so far, that M. Hugo, from

his early days, in his choice of subjects, oscillated between tender domestic affections and an appetite for monstrosities. At all events, his novels, 'Han d'Islande' and 'Bug-Jargal,' would support such an inference. In 'Le Dernier Jour d'un Condamné,' a nobler and more generous side of the rising author's character is to be seen. His "introduction to the scaffold" rooted in his mind from the first the convictions that Death is a punishment which man has no right to award to man,—that Life is a blessing, so long as a second of it endures,—and that want is a justification of crime. The pity is, that M. Hugo, with all his fine feelings and associations, could not reproduce the rueful, luckless victim of society,—real in the streets, real in the police-offices, real at the gallows' foot, for whom our English novelist, greater in his mastery over the human heart, has pleaded so forcibly. M. Hugo's criminal, in 'Le Dernier Jour,' is what M. Hugo, a man of education, recollection, memories and disappointments, might himself have been. *Fagin*, in 'Oliver Twist,' is much more of the real vagabond, and *Jo*, in 'Bleak House,' much more of the terrible waif and stray, whose appearance is so inconvenient to all established regulators of ranks, classes and usages.

It is curious to remark the small account that the Witness makes of 'Notre Dame de Paris,' as of a five-months' task, got through in fulfilment of an agreement with a publisher, Gosselin; whose wife, who had translated many romances by Sir Walter Scott, on reading the French manuscript, found Quasimodo dull, and Frollo dull, and Esmeralda improper. Here, however, we are told once for all, that 'Le Quiquengrogne,' a feudal romance, which M. Hugo promised as a sequel to 'Notre Dame,' is merely a name; and that of the novel, about which there has been so much speculation and inquiry, not a first line has been put on paper.

Another chapter "shows up" M. de Lamartine's house and housekeeping, as completely as the one which finished off Madame de Chateaubriand, with her tight bonnet and her charitable chocolate. M. de Lamartine received M. Victor Hugo and his wife, in a modern house at Macon, after having described the dwelling in an ode (ode-writers will promise and prophesy), as a heap of ruins and machicolations. Madame de Lamartine, being an English lady, sat down to dinner in full dress, as publicly unveiled as Mdlles. Duchesnois and Leverd had been. But the larger portion of the second volume is devoted to the testimony of the Witness regarding the dramas of M. Victor Hugo, showing how the theatrical managers did not want, yet could not dispense with, the same. It tells how Mdlle. Mars behaved ill in rehearsal and preparation, but admirably on the stage;—how Madame Dorval (whose portraiture is one of the few good things in Madame George Sand's autobiography) did the reverse;—how excellent were the plays, in themselves; how untowardly they were treated. The story told by the Witness of M. Hugo's determination to fight a success for his 'Ernani' is curious. He assembled his myrmidons, and they dressed for the occasion in fancy costumes, "camped out" in the theatre, with all the necessities of "camping out" here coarsely explained, and they fought to the death—for his play. M. Joanny's notes, those of an old *sociétaire* to the Théâtre Français (which we have been told are one day to be published), may throw more light on the story. At all events, the matter is one full of anecdote, character and comedy.

The dramas of M. Victor Hugo present a strange compound of vile and noble qualities.

The silver lining to every cloud of crime and cruelty is exposed to public gaze. For heroines, Marion de Lorme, Mary Tudor, Lucrezia Borgia, Thisbe the courtesan, are not a promising quartett. Our Shakspere could make a *Juliet*, an *Imogen*, a *Cordelia*, a *Portia*, the pillars of four dramas—central, however slight in seeming; whereas a Hugo must wallow in the abyss to find an evil and luckless woman, and to set her forth as the heroine and the divinity, into the adoration of whom his public was to be constrained by his dramatic power as an advocate. A wretched and perverse ambition does this seem!—justifying Goethe's epithet which called it “a literature of despair.” On the other hand, the structure of these dramas by M. Hugo is admirable for skill; and the use of the French language in them is sharp, vigorous, enlarging,—breaking the accepted academical boundaries, without the slightest entrance into the empire of jargon. M. Hugo's manner, as a poet, disqualifies him for any succession to Corneille, Racine, or even Voltaire; but there are words in his prose plays which draw blood, as well as thoughts that breathe. Then, in power of construction, he could meet, and outdo in the meeting, such a rival French dramatist as Scribe; but he had not the same success.

Why should a man so strong as he is talk nonsense so weak as he talks here, in telling over awkward and out-worn tales about his plays? Why express a devouring desire to prove that the world was against him, and that politics did him harm?—(yet M. Victor Hugo must bear to be reminded that he has changed from Ultra-Royalism to Red Republicanism). It is clear that his tragedies never held the public, however high their merit.

There are more volumes to come, written, no doubt, by the Witness,—of which, it may be, we shall speak as they appear.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

An Errand to the South in the Summer of 1862. By the Rev. William Wyndham Malet. (Bentley.)—Mr. William Wyndham Malet is a well-meaning but far from wise man. The affectations of his book are harmless, but very laughable, and his statements about life and manners in the Confederate States are pervaded by simplicity and ignorance of the world that are truly astonishing. With an amusing consciousness of his descent from a baron who enjoyed the favour of William the Conqueror, he speaks of the English as “the great Anglo-Saxon race,” and he pays many compliments to the Anglo-Catholic Church, which he hopes will become the model of a new State-Church system in the Southern Confederacy. “The want of system,” observes the clerical tourist, “both in the ministry and services of the other ‘churches’ not requiring a belief in Apostolical succession, was very evident. The order and decency essential to the Anglo-Catholic church would be hailed by many in those villages and farms as a great spiritual comfort, and from the spirit of toleration which exists, no hostility would be raised. The fields are white to the harvest, and there is a noble opening for the ministry of the church.” It appears that President Davis and his subordinate agents deemed it politic to encourage this view. When Mr. Malet was in Richmond, Mrs. Davis asked him to breakfast and “consult with her clergyman, Dr. Minnegröde, about organizing some system for divine service in the hospitals.” The entertainment passed off much to the visitor's delight, the Presidential Chaplain playing his part with admirable tact. “Dr. Minnegröde, at breakfast,” says the author, “spoke strongly and ably in favour of a National Church connected with the Government. The Church in England was too much secularized, and so much State interference was bad. The Church should appoint her own bishops, the State as a ‘nursing father,’ consenting thereto. The

bishops should not vote in secular parliaments, and livings should not be conferred for political purposes or for money; but these abuses were not essential for the happy union of the ‘Church and State,’ which was the only way to maintain a religious system in the world.” Naturally, Mr. Malet left Dr. Minnegröde on the best possible terms, and said “farewell” to the South in high good humour with her intentions and institutions. Of the enslaved negroes,—“sable descendants of Canaan,” as they are euphoniously designated in these mellifluous pages,—the writer has nothing to say but that their lot is truly blessed. Slavery is an embarrassment to wealthy proprietors, but a source of incalculable happiness to the bondmen. “Slavery,” observes Mr. Malet, settling the question of Abolition for ever, “is a curse to the white, but a blessing to the black man.” The discipline of slaves on the plantations of South Carolina is less severe than the control to which children submit in an English lady's nursery. “Each plantation has its hospital and a good woman nurse, strong and healthy, instructed in medicine and the treatment of wounds. The common punishment on plantations is shutting up for a certain time; but generally it is shortened on expression of contrition: whipping is only resorted to for theft, and then with clothes on.” The fun of this statement, made with equal gravity and simplicity, calls to mind the parody of poor Monk Lewis's gentle enactments for the government of his slaves, in which he is represented as deciding that “any slave who committed murder should have his head shaved, and be confined for three days and nights in a dark room.” His earnest arguments for immediate recognition of the South by England Mr. Malet concludes with words taken from a Southern officer's lips. “Two brothers,” observed the officer to the English traveller, “are fighting in a field; a relation sees them: should he not interfere? should he not, unbiased, recognize each one's right?” To the first of these questions, it may be replied, in the language of Hudibras, that—

They who in quarrels interpose
Must often wipe a bloody nose!

As to the second, it will appear to most readers that England's strict and unbiased neutrality is a recognition of each belligerent's right to self-government. One piece of literary gossip Mr. Malet heard in the South, which deserves to be repeated as an illustration of what unfriendly tongues say of Mrs. Beecher Stowe and her best known book. “Judge Howe,” observes the writer, “was there, and a Mr. Hall was at Prospect Place, near White Hill. These gentlemen were friends of the family of Mrs. Beecher Stowe, who was left badly off. This lady had travelled in the South, where few Northerners ever go, except it be to settle there; she had written notes about the slaves. Judge Howe concluded, as an abolitionist and universalist, to make out a book, and employed Hall, a clever hand, to write it. He called it ‘Uncle Tom's Cabin’ a fiction on the said notes; it was agreed to bring it out under Mrs. Beecher Stowe's name. Hall was to be paid for the writing, and Judge Howe was to give Mrs. Beecher Stowe part of the profits, which immensely exceeded all their expectations, and proved fortunes to them both.”

Sir Aberdour; or, the Sceptic: a Romant. By Walter P. J. Purcell, Esq., of the Inner Temple. Cantos III. and IV. (Pickering).—In the concluding Canto of this “Romant,” the struggle between doubt and belief in the breast of the hero is described, and the triumph of the latter principle recorded. Of the process by which this result was gained we have, however, no very distinct idea, and can only say that the conversion of sceptics must be an easy task if it can be accomplished by such means as are here employed. There is nothing in Mr. Purcell's reasoning that would repay examination, and were it far more cogent than it is, a narrative poem would still be a very inappropriate form for its development. Poetry is so unfit a vehicle for abstract metaphysics that, even when imagination and logic co-exist, each neutralizes the effect of the other. Of the former quality the present writer has not a gleam. His arguments, though neither new nor profound, might have been readable in a prose essay,—disguised and encumbered

by the trammels of verse, they baffle attention and exhaust patience.

A Description of certain Dry Processes in Photography. By George Kemp, M.D. (Davies).—This pamphlet must be regarded as the record of a research instituted for the purpose of investigating the nature of the molecular changes which “occur in some of the more obscure departments of photography.” The changes induced by the solar rays, during an instantaneous exposure of the iodide of silver, producing, indeed, no visible change, but placing that salt in such a condition as to admit of the breaking up of its physical structure, in the dark, by the application of a suitable agent, called a “developer,” are the subjects of this inquiry. The question has been carefully examined by Dr. Kemp, and he has been led to adopt certain precautions in relation to dry collodion processes which should be carefully studied by all who deem it important to possess some means for obtaining photographic pictures when travelling, on plates which have been rendered sensitive at home. In a ‘Supplementary Notice of Plans useful to the Scientific Traveller and Missionary,’ Dr. Kemp attempts to simplify photography to the utmost. The extent to which he proposes to carry this may be judged of by his concluding paragraph:—“From the above remarks, then, it will be seen that the materials required for photographic representations, under the difficult circumstances we have supposed, are few in number, light, and occupy but considerable space. As to the manipulations, any person, with far less hardiness than those to whom our observations are applicable, may become an adept after a few days' practice; and, as to apparatus, the objective of the travelling telescope may be used for a lens, and a few pieces of thick pasteboard be easily converted into a dark box. Many other hints suggest themselves, but time and space prohibit further details.” We have printed the last paragraph in italics to indicate the defect of this treatise. The author commences by saying that he has been “compelled to hurry on the publication”; in the body of the book, “want of time prevents the writer referring” to a work for a quotation relating to an important process, and the concluding paragraph is given above. Surely if the author thought he had any useful matter to communicate, he might have bestowed the necessary time to have written with more care the eighty-four pages in which it is comprehended.

Among miscellaneous publications, we must annex the *Report of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature on some of the Mayer Papyri and the Palimpsest MS. of Uranius, belonging to M. Simoniides; with Letters from MM. Pertz, Ehrenberg and Dindorf (Murray).*—*Vergili Opera,* by John Conington, being Vol. II. of ‘Bibliotheca Classica,’ edited by George Long (Whittaker).—*Miscellanies, Historical and Biographical; being a Second Series of Essays, Lectures and Reviews,* by W. S. Gibson (Longman).—Part XIII. of *The Dictionary of Architecture* (Richards).—*Parson and People; or, Incidents in Every-Day Life of a Clergyman,* by the Rev. E. Spooner (Seeley).—Vol. II. of Mr. Burn's *Outlines of Modern Farming* (Virtue Brothers & Co.).—*Messrs. Miall & Carrington's Flora of the West Riding* (Pamplin).—*The Shakespeare Treasury; or, Subject Quotations—Synonymously Inde-*xd, by W. Hod (Lockwood).—*Beiträge zur Geo-Physick und Klimatographie,* von A. Mühl (Williams & Norgate).—*Diplomata Quadranginta ex Archetypis, edidit Philippus Jaffé (Nutt).*—*Flora of Edinburgh: a List of Plants found in the Vicinity of Edinburgh,* by Dr. Balfour, assisted by J. Sadler (Black).—*Natural Phenomena, the Genetic Record, and the Sciences Harmonically Arranged and Compared,* by Alexander McDonald (Longman).—*A History of the Origin of the Mysteries and Doctrines of Baptism and the Eucharist* (Bennett).—*The Ordinances of Spiritual Worship: their History, Meaning and End, Considered in a Series of Essays from the Writings of the Rev. E. T. M. Phillips,* selected and edited by his Daughter (Longman).—*My Mothers' Meetings; being Familiar Conversations with my Cottage Neighbours,* by Elizabeth Bennett (Bennett).—*Results of Victor Emmanuel's Rule,* by an Eye-Witness (Harrison).—*An Essay on the Improvement of Time, and other*

Literary Remains, by John Foster, with a Preface by John Sheppard, edited by J. E. Ryland (Jackson, Walford & Hodder).—*The Comic Guide to the Royal Academy*, by G. A. and A. W. à Beckett (Routledge).—*The Crystal Palace Penny Guide* (Bart).—Part I. of the cheap edition of the *Works of Professor Wilson—Noctes Ambrosiana* (Blackwood).—Vol. I. *Third Series of the Homilist*, conducted by the Rev. Dr. D. Thomas (Kent).—*A Visit to Daisy Nook; or, a Londoner's Glance at Lancashire Life*, by a Member of the Savage Club (Simpkin).—*Congrès International de Béyfaisance de Londres, Session de 1862* (Trübner).—*Mr. Kinglake and the Quartetts*, by an Old Reviewer (Harrison).—*Sorrows and Joys: Tales of Quiet Life*, by W. M. (Freeman).—*Annual of Scientific Discovery*, edited by D. A. Wells (Trübner).—*Essai d'un Dictionnaire des Homonymies Français*, par E. Zlatagorskoi (Nutt).—*Oratio Procuratoria Oxonii coram Ven. Domine Convocationis*, by John Riddell (Parker),—and from Mr. Partridge we have *Domestic Addresses and Scraps of Experience*, by G. Mogridge.—*Little Jane; or, the Boat Accident*, by A. Mills.—*Dick and His Donkey; or, How to Pay the Rent*, by C. E. B.,—*The Royal Marriage, and the Christian Kingdom, with Brief Reminiscences of the Prince of Wales*, by the Rev. J. H. Wilson.

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Bohn's cheap Series, "Irving's 'Wife' and Letters, V. 3, 2/ cl.
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SHAKSPEARE CELEBRATION

At length we are in a position to say that something definite and satisfactory is being done with respect to the proposed Shakspeare Celebration, in 1864. The desire to do honour to the Poet had taken possession of so many minds at the same time, and so many projects had been started in the Poet's name—some local, others metropolitan—some individual, others corporate—that a reasonable fear was entertained lest the difficulty of bringing even the more important of these bodies and individuals into a common scheme would be insurmountable. We are glad to hear that this is not likely to be the case. On the contrary, a very good feeling seems to exist on every side. It was no sooner whispered about that the special Shakespeare Committee, of which the Duke of Newcastle is chairman, were disposed to offer their services as mediators between the several bodies, than assurances were sent to them of a desire for conciliation and co-operation. It appeared only necessary for that Committee to call a meeting, consider the

position of affairs, and place itself, by a distinct series of resolutions, at the service of the cause, in order to combine the best elements of all existing bodies into a National Shakspeare Committee.

A Meeting of the Shakspere Committee was accordingly held at the apartments of the Royal Society of Literature, on Monday last, the 22nd inst. The Duke of Manchester, who, in the absence of the Duke of Newcastle, occupied the chair, proposed the first resolution in the following words:-

"That a National Celebration of the Three Hundredth Birthday of Shakspeare should be held on the 23rd of April, 1864, and commemorated by the erection of a Monument in a conspicuous part of London."

This resolution was seconded by W. Hepworth Dixon, Esq., and was carried unanimously. The argument in favour of a statue or memorial group to which the Committee has pledged itself, needed very little exposition. In the Committee there was no difference of opinion, and in the country we believe there is very little. The only competing

believe there is very little. The only competing projects which show any vigour of life are the War

wickshire plan of enlarging the Stratford Grammar School and founding Shakspearian scholarships at Oxford; and the project of a Shakspearian fête for the benefit of the Dramatic College. But the design of a memorial statue, to be placed in some appropriate and conspicuous part of London, found

no warmer advocates at the Meeting on Monday than Sir Robert Hamilton, the originator of the Warwickshire scheme, and Mr. Benjamin Webster, Master of the Dramatic College. To this first idea of the Committee we believe the whole country has already, by way of anticipation, delivered its assent. What the world requires is a celebration of the

three hundredth birthday, and after it a visible witness of that act of national homage, to be seen up in the most available public place in London.

"That to be worthy of Shakspeare and of the country, this National Celebration should be conducted under the patronage of Her Majesty, and the presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the aid of all classes of the Poet's countrymen and admirers, residing in the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and in foreign countries."

This resolution may be said, in the present stage of the business, to represent ideas rather than facts. But we are glad to see these ideas put forward early and strongly. Of course, we cannot pretend to speak for Her Majesty or for the Prince of Wales; it is, however, no very close secret that the late Prince Consort, among many admirable projects for the good of this nation, had thought of such a celebration as the one now proposed. The plan may therefore reckon on the royal sympathy, and, we should hope, on its formal sanction.

Starting from this strong position, that if any thing is done for Shakspere, it should be done under the guidance of our highest and best, a third resolution, proposed by Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., and seconded by C. H. Bracebridge, Esq., declared:—

"That with a view to combine in a National Shakspeare Committee the representative men of all classes, this Shakspeare Committee, consisting of the following noblemen and gentlemen—The Duke of Newcastle, K.G., the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., the Duke of Manchester, the Earl of Carlisle, K.G., Earl Granville, K.G., the Earl of Dunraven, the Earl Howe, the Earl Russell, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Lord Bishop of London, the Lord Bishop of Worcester, Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Lord Londesborough, Lord Vernon, Lord John Manners, Lord Lindsay, the Lord Chief Baron Pollock, the Right Hon. Lord Justice Knight Bruce, General Sabine, President of the Royal Society, the Lord Mayor of London, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., M.P., Sir C. H. Rouse Boughton, Bart., Sir C. Wentworth Dilke, Bart., General Sir John Burgoyne, Bart., G.C.B., Sir R. Hamilton, M.P., Sir C. Nicholson, Bart., Sir Fitzroy Kelly, M.P., Q.C., Sir R. G. MacDonnell, C.B., the Right

Hon. S. H. Walpole, M.P., Sir James Prior, T. Bazley, Esq., M.P., B. Bond Cabbell, Esq., M.P., W. Ewart, Esq., M.P., R. S. Holford, Esq., M.P., R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P., C. N. Newde-

gate, Esq., M.P., H. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P., William Tite, Esq., M.P., E. F. Bowring, Esq., Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon, C. H. Bracebridge, Esq., Herman Merivale, Esq., Daniel Machie, Esq., R.A., David Roberts, Esq., R.A., E. M. Ward, Esq., R.A., W. H. Worthington Dixon, Esq.

Ward, Esq., R.A., W. Egerton Dixon, Esq., Alfred Tennyson, Esq., Poet-Laureate, Tom Taylor, Esq., F. W. Gibbs, Esq., James Dugdale, Esq., the Rev. Alexander Dyce, W. C. Macready, Esq., Benjamin Webster, Esq., J. P. Collier, Esq., the Rev. William Harness, Henry Johnson, Esq., John Wilkinson, Esq., Thomas Wright, Esq., F. W. Cossens, Esq., Frederick Haines, Esq., J. O. Halliwell, Esq.—undertake to invite the co-operation of all local and special bodies, and of eminent personages, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, having Shakspelian objects in view."

This third resolution, in point of fact, constituted a National Shakespeare Committee, with power to add to their number, and to seek counsel and strength from every available quarter.

A fourth resolution, proposed by Sir Richard MacDonnell, seconded by Thomas Wright, Esq., ran as follows:—

"That the Governors of Her Majesty's Colonies and Indian Possessions be invited to make known the objects of this Committee within their respective Provinces, and to enlist the sympathy and support of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the British Dependencies in aid of the Erection of the contemplated National Shakspearian Monument."

The National Shakespeare Committee, pledged to conduct the Ter-centenary Celebration in April next year, and to raise a memorial statue of the Poet in some appropriate part of London, is therefore before the world. The nobleness of the work to be done will depend on the amount of support which the Committee shall receive.

THE MYSTERY OF THE NILE.

ON Monday evening, at the Royal Geographical Society, on Tuesday evening at the Royal Institution, Capt. Speke told the wonderful tale of his travels and his discoveries. In both places his companion in peril and in glory, Capt. Grant, was present, and we think the living heroes of adventures were more interesting to the brilliant crowds who came to hear their story than all the mysteries of the Blue and the White Niles. On the second evening, the Prince of Wales was present.

The following written paper was read by Capt. Speke :—

"In attempting to describe the extent and character of this great river, compared with its tributaries within the limits of actual inspection by myself, I will first treat of its head, the Victoria Nyanza, from its southern extremity, which I found by astronomical observation, in 1858, to be close on 3° S. of the Equator, and gradually bring it down to its point of *débouchement* in the Mediterranean sea, 31° N. of the Equator, by which it will be seen that the Nile represents, considering it lies almost in one direct line from south to north, a total in round numbers of 2,000 geographical miles in length, and is therefore nearly one-tenth of the circumference of the globe. It must be borne in mind, however, that my observations respecting this great river are not the result of one expedition, but of two; that I have not actually followed its banks from head to foot, but have tracked it down, occasionally touching on it, and even navigating it as occasion offered, for the barbarous nature of the African lakes forbids the traveller doing as he likes; therefore, to give full weight to any inferences I may draw, deduced from what I have only seen in part, I will blend native information with my own experiences, and in doing so shall hope to teach others what I know, and, beyond that, what I believe myself. In the year 1858, when I discovered the Victoria Nyanza, which is the great reservoir of the Nile, I found it a large sheet of sweet water, lying on the main level, or from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea level of the great

interior of Equatorial Africa, looking for all the world like the source of some great river; so much so indeed, that I at once felt certain in my own mind it was the source of the Nile, and noted it accordingly. To add to this impression, the natives, who there only know it by the name of the Nyanza, which equally means lake, pond, and river, described its extension in this confused manner to the northward as being boundless, whilst its breadth really—in fact, its circumference—was enormous; greater, if anything, on the east than on its western side, for the negro informants knew the names of all the countries surrounding the lake, and must, had they understood the value of geographical definitions, have been able to separate the river Nile from the Nyanza, and to reduce their explorations to any common understanding. Other informants, Arab merchants, and their slaves, residents of Zanzibar, who penetrate Africa in quest of ivory, and who had completed the whole circuit of the Nyanza, not individually, but separately, some on one side and some on the other, assured me that the Nyanza was the source of some great river—they knew not what, though they had heard confused accounts from the natives living on the Equator, of the European ivory-merchants who frequented the Nile in vessels at 5° N. latitude, and had further heard, through the same channel, that, with the rising of the Nile, and consequently the violence of its waters, islands were floated down its surface, which really is the case, not composed of earth and stone, but tangled roots of trees, rushes and grass, with even sometimes huts upon them, which, otherwise undisturbed, are torn away by the violence of the stream and carried down, perfect floating islands. Then again, these men described the territory between the Nile and Asua rivers as an island on the one side and the land composing the ancient kingdom of Kittara, according to their acceptance of the word as an island, also being nearly circumscribed by the Kitangulé and Luta Nzigé rivers, in conjunction with the Nyanza and the Nile. No merchants, however, had crossed the first parallel of north latitude: none understood geography. They heard what the natives said, but could not fully comprehend them, and thus it was that a doubt still existed in everybody's mind but my own as to the origin of the Nile, which no one would believe until I went again and traced the river down from head to mouth. Had I been all alone in the first expedition I should have settled the Nile in 1859, by travelling from Unyanyembi to Uganda with an Indian merchant, Musor Mzuri, who was prepared to go there, but my proposal having been negatived by the chief of the expedition, who was sick at the time, and tired with the journey, I returned to England, and, to my inexpressible delight, the very first day after my arrival here, found in Sir Roderick Impey Murchison a warm advocate, and proposed to the Royal Geographical Society to complete what I had before begun, and, as may be imagined, I could not rest satisfied until the world accepted my own views, happily now verified by indisputable means of actual inspection and astronomical observation, that the Victoria Nyanza is the great reservoir of the Nile. Suffice it now to say, after returning to Unyanyembi (the old point), 3° south of the lake, in 1861, I struck upon a new route, which I imagined, from the unsophisticated depositions of the ivory-merchants, would lead me to a creek on the westerly flank of the Nyanza, situated on the southern boundary of Karagwé. Geographical definitions were here, again, found wanting, for, instead of the creek to the great lake appearing, a new lake was found, Lake of Uzige, which formerly appeared to have contained a considerable amount of water, but is now fast drying up. Its head lies in Urundi, and, circling round the south and east flanks of Karagwé, in form a mountain valley, is subsequently drained by the Kitangulé River into the Nyanza, but not in sufficient quantity to make any sensible impression on the perennial contents of the Nyanza basin. It is to the west and south of Karagwé that the lake receives its greatest terrestrial supply of water, through the medium of the Kitangulé River, which, in draining the aforesaid Luer-lo-Uzige, drains off the superfluous waters of many minor

lakes, as the Akenyard in Urundi; the Luckurow, which is the second of a chain with the Akenyard; the Ingerzi and Karagimé; and the little Winandermere, which in Karagwé lies below the capital on its south-eastern corner. None of these lakes are large—mere puddles in comparison to the great Victoria Nyanza; but still the Kitangulé River, after receiving all their contributions, is a noble river, low sunk like a huge canal, about eighty yards across, with the velocity of about four miles an hour, which appears equal to the Nile itself as soon as it issues from the lake by the Ripon Falls. The question naturally suggests itself. What forms these lakes? whence originate their waters? It is simply this: the Mountains of the Moon, in which they lie encircling the northern end and the Tanganyika Lake, are exposed to the influences of the rainy zone, where I observed, in 1862, no less than 238 days out of the year were more or less wet days. Mashondé, in the upper portion of Uganda, is the first place where, in this second expedition, I obtained a view of the Victoria Lake. * * * In a southerly direction the Woganda boatmen go as far as the island of Ukerewé, which I saw on my first journey to Muanza, at the southern extremity of the lake; and to the eastward beyond the escape of the Nile, to the north-eastern corner of Victoria Lake, where by a strait they gain access to another lake in quest of salt, possibly the Baringo of Dr. Krapf, which he, from information gained through the natives, called Salt Lake, most likely because there are salt islands on it, which reasoning I deduce from the fact that on my former expedition, when the Arabs first spoke to me of the Little Luta Nzigé, they described it as a salt lake belonging to the Great Nyanza; yet not belonging to it, when further pressed upon the subject. The Great Nyanza waters were purely fresh and sweet. They (the Arabs), like Dr. Krapf, merely narrated what they heard. As salt islands were visited by the natives in search of that mineral the surrounding waters naturally were considered salt by them, deprived as they were of its connecting links, which included the whole area of ground under consideration within the limits of the drainage system of the Nile. The Arabs, who it is now very clear had heard of everything in connexion with the science of philosophical geography, were enabled to connect what they had gleaned in detached fragments from it. Dr. Krapf further tells us of a river tending from the river Newey by Mount Kenia towards the Nile. If such is the case, it must be a feeder to the Baringa, whose waters pass off by the Asua River into the Nile, for the whole country immediately on the eastern side of the Victoria Nyanza is said by the Arabs, who have traversed it for ivory, to be covered with low rolling hills, intersected only by simple streaks and nullahs from this point in Muanza to the side streak, which is situated on the Equator on the northern boundary of the Victoria Nyanza. Turning now again to Mashondé, and proceeding north along the boundary coast of Nyanza to the valley of Katonga, which, from its position on the lake, is constantly in view, the land above the lake is beautiful, composed of low sandstone hills, streaked down by small streams,—the effect of constant rains—grown all over by gigantic grass, except where the numerous villagers have supplanted it by cultivation, or on the deltas where mighty trees, tall and straight as the blue gums of Australia, usurp the right of vegetation. The bed of the Nyanza has shrunk from its original dimensions, as we saw in the case of the Uzige lake; and the moorlands immediately surrounding are covered with a network of large rush drains, with boggy bottoms, as many as one to every mile, even counting at one period a much fuller stream than at the present day, when the old bed was on the present surface of the water, and its breadth was double that which now exists. The Mountains of the Moon are wearing down, and so is Africa. Crossing over the Equator, altogether the conformation of the land appeared much the same, but increased in beauty; the drainage system was found the opposite, clearly showing where in the north slope of Africa one stream, the Mworangó, of moderate dimensions, said to arise in the lake, flowed north and joined the Nile in the kingdom of Unioro, where its

name is changed to Kari. Far on another stream, the Luajér, followed its example, and then still further on from the centre of the coast of the Nyanza issued the parent of the Nile flowing over rocks of igneous character twelve feet high, which the natives and also some Arabs designate by the simple name of stones. I have done myself the honour to christen it the Ripon Falls, after his Lordship, who was the President of the Royal Geographical Society when the expedition was set on foot. Now, proceeding down the Nile from the Ripon Falls, the river first bisects the sandstone-continued hills which extend into Usoga above the coast-line of the lake, and rushes along north with mountain-torrent beauty, and then, having passed these hills, of no great extent, it turned through long flats more like a lake than a river, where, in Unioro, it was increased by the contribution of the Kaffu and the Luajér, and continued in this navigable form to the Karuma Falls in Chopi, where again, the land dropping suddenly to the westward, we saw the river rushing along with boisterous violence; but could not follow it, owing to the war which lay upon the track. It was, indeed, a pity, for not sixty miles from where we stood, by common report, the Little Luta Nzigé, which I had taken so much trouble in tracing down its course from the Lunes Montes with its salt islands in it, joined the Nile. The old river was next met with in the Madi country, due north of the Karuma Falls, where it still bore the unmistakeable character of the Nile—long flats, long rapids. The southern half of the Madi was a flat, extending, we believe, to the junction of the Little Luta Nzigé, the northern, a rapid extending down to the navigable Nile—that is to say, the Nile which is navigable its entire length during the period of its flooding; and here the Asua river, of which we have heard, draining from the north-east corner of the Victoria Lake, joins—in a rainy season an important feeder, but when low, fordable. The first great affluent, which, indeed, is the only one worthy of remark on the left of the Nile, is the Bahr el Ghazal. It joins on, with the appearance of a diminutive lake at the sharp elbow of the Nile, without any visible stream of its own, whilst the great river winds round with considerable velocity, carrying, as I have said, the palm with it. The second affluent is in order of position, which, with all the others, is on the right of the Nile, is the Gerafee river, swirling with considerable stream and graceful round into the parent Nile. Its magnitude and general appearance is like that of a first-class canal, inferior to the Kitangulé River, although not so much so as to equal in quantity of fluid one-third of the Nile at its point of junction. It is navigable to a great distance south, but where it comes from, nobody knows. It cannot be called a mountain river, as we found similar substances floating on its surface as on the Nile, evidently showing that both the trunk and the branch are subjected to the same effects of sluggish flats and rapids. The third is the Southern Sobat River, which was full and navigable—in breadth it is greater than the Gerafee River, but less in rapidity, so that we may infer their perennial contents are much the same. Unfortunately, the Northern Sobat was passed without our knowledge, which also being navigable, would make the Upper Sobat, that is to say, the Sobat above the Delta, of far greater magnitude than the Gerafee, unless, indeed, the three streams may be one river still further south, when in its combination the comparison would have to be drawn with the Nile above it, and would very nearly equal it, for the Nile, with these additions, has scarcely doubled its importance, considered as it was seen from above entering the Bahr el Ghazal. The Blue River was long assumed to be the Nile only because its perennial powers were never tested. It appears to be a mountain stream emanating in the country without the rainy zone, but subject to the influence of tropical rains and droughts, at one time full, and empty at another, so shallow as to be fordable. The suspicion, therefore, that it was the Nile must of itself appear absurd, for its waters, during the dry seasons, would be absorbed long before they reached the sea. But apart from this feature of the amount of

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the Blue River, the Nile runs like a sluice in its wonted course, whilst the Blue River, conjoining with the Geraffe and Sobat, describes a graceful sweep. The Alhara, which is the last, is in all respects like the Blue, only small. With one more remark I will conclude. In the height of the dry season in the White River, the Blue is freely navigated, owing to the great accessions of the Geraffe and Sobat Rivers, but below the Blue and Alhara Rivers, to the sea the sandbanks obstruct further passage. There is one thing that I have left unstated, and that is the fact that on my return the first Englishman I met was Mr. Baker, with whose name you were already acquainted, who came up for the purpose of helping us out of a scrape if we had got into one. Mr. Baker hearing that there was one branch of the river that I had not explored, went on for the purpose of searching for it, and I trust that before another year is out we shall see him back to tell us all about it. Another remarkable fact was that three ladies came up to meet me, but one having been taken ill, Miss Tinney and her mother went up the river to satisfy their desire for geographical knowledge. I endeavoured to persuade them to return, and subsequently wrote them a letter entreating them to give up their journey, with what result remains to be shown. If the remaining branch is not explored by these parties, I shall have to do the work myself.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

ACCORDING to Mr. Hunt's Report the brick building in Cromwell Road, used during the Exhibition in 1862 as a gallery for pictures, is a substantial structure. The roof, however, requires to be repaired and the skylights replaced with others of a stronger character glazed with sheet-glass. It is proposed also to lay new wrought floor-boards over those now existing, and to render the whole of the gallery fire-proof by the adoption of Fox and Barrett's principle, which has been found efficient, or by the construction of brick arches on iron girders under the present floor.

The remainder of the buildings are partly permanent and partly temporary in their construction. The iron columns and girders, and the iron trusses of the roofs, will remain permanently with some adjustments and modifications. The timbers of the roofs, as well as the skylights, are, with the exception of the roofs over the nave and transepts, of a temporary character, and it is proposed to remove them, substituting new timbers with a covering of slate or marine metal. The skylights will be entirely new, and the glass in them will be of the quality known as the 21-ounce sheet. The roofs over the nave and transepts will be slated. All the gutters throughout will be lined with lead; and the skylight, frames, ridges and hips, will be covered with lead. The joists and floor-boards of the galleries will be removed, and substantial new floors will be substituted. The whole of the ground floors throughout the entire building will be removed. A layer of concrete twelve inches thick will then be laid over the whole surface, and a new floor constructed, with new materials. The joists will be of the best fir timber; the sleepers will be of oak, on proper brick walls, built on the concrete platform before described, and the floor-boards will be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, planed, and put together with iron tongues. All the ceilings throughout, except the nave and transept, will be plastered, as will also all the brick walls within the building.

A complete system of drainage was constructed when the buildings were erected. This will, however, require to be repaired, and in parts re-laid.

With regard to the domes, it is proposed to build piers of brickwork upon solid concrete foundation, and to construct brick arches, springing from these piers. The lower portion of the domes will then be filled in with brickwork, covered externally with lead, and the upper portion will be glazed with thick glass. The interior parts of the brickwork, including the piers and arches, will be plastered. It is not proposed to remove the ironwork, but to build it in with the brickwork.

As respects the completion architecturally of the exterior of the building on its three sides, Mr. Hunt proposes that the existing outlines should be

preserved, and such an amount of decoration introduced as may be consistent with the purposes to which the building is to be applied. The material to be employed will be Portland cement. Mr. Hunt thinks it would be an unnecessary expense to face the building with stone, especially as all the surrounding mansions and buildings are of the less expensive material.

These are the more important works contemplated; but there are others of a minor description, which are fully set forth in the first specification and estimate.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

General Sabine made a few observations from the chair at the winding-up Meeting of the Royal Society last week, which merit more attention than they are likely to receive, if we may judge from past experience. Twenty-five papers were read at the Meeting, and of course very imperfectly; of some the titles only were mentioned, and most were dismissed with brief abstracts. As the President remarked, the Society thereby lost the hearing of some very important papers, and the discussions to which they would have given rise; and he pointed out that it would be to the advantage of all concerned, if the Fellows and other authors would send in their papers at the beginning instead of at the end of the session.

The Royal Society have elected two Foreign Members,—Prof. Kummer, of Berlin, for his discoveries in the theory of numbers, and in particular for the conception and development of ideal numbers; and Prof. Steenstrup, of Copenhagen, the well-known naturalist, whose works on the Alternation of Generations, and other zoological and archaeological subjects connected with the history of man, are greatly esteemed by naturalists. The list of fifty Foreign Members is thus once more complete.

The Academy of Sciences of Berlin, through the official intervention of the King, have conferred upon Sir Charles Lyell the honour of Chevalier of the Order of Merit in Science and Art. The number of foreign knights of this Order is limited to thirty; and among our countrymen, previously elected, Sir Charles Lyell will find Sir John Herschel, the Astronomer-Royal, Prof. Faraday, Prof. Owen, Sir David Brewster, Sir Henry Rawlinson and General Sabine.

It will be seen from our report of the sale of the Bromley pictures that the nation has acquired several additions to the National Gallery, viz., Gio. Bellini's Saviour on the Mount of Olives, well remembered at the Manchester Art-Treasures Exhibition,—Il Bramontino's Adoration of the Kings,—Palmezzano da Forlì, The Virgin Entroned (the Dublin National Gallery), —A. Bottraffio, The Virgin and Child,—Pesello Peselli, The Holy Trinity.

At the special meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, called to consider the protest of Sir Edward Belcher and his friends against the illegality of the late elections, three hundred members were present; after some debate, a large majority decided that no cause had been shown for taking counsel's opinion as to the breach of rules. The elections, therefore, stand good; except in the case of Dr. Rae, who has voluntarily retired from the Council, in accordance with the laws.

The Rev. Francis Trench suggests, as a means of saving trouble and expense, to collectors, the establishment of a Book-exchange Bazaar. Many persons, Mr. Trench thinks, are in possession of books which, for various reasons, they would gladly exchange for others. Such persons do not like to sell their volumes, though they would, he fancies, be willing enough to barter them away for other volumes. He proposes, therefore, to establish a dépôt or bazaar, in a convenient part of London, at which books for exchange might be delivered by the possessors, to be there taken up at a fair price by those who might need them. Mr. Trench proposes to maintain his Exchange by charging a sum on all books received into it; also a per-cent-age on all sales. He says nothing about rent. Mr. Trench is of opinion that the collector and publisher would alike gain by the foundation of his Exchange.

If of books there will be no end, we may say that the same prospect applies to paper. A plant, the *Sida retusa*, which grows in prodigious quantities at Brisbane in East Australia, is found to possess a most valuable fibre which will, after being worked up into textile fabrics, render it peculiarly adapted for paper.

The concluding evening meeting of the present session of the London, Middlesex and Surrey Archaeological Societies will be held on Wednesday next, July 1, at 7, St. Mildred's Court, Poultry, when Charles Baily, Esq., will read a paper 'On the Mode of Roofing Buildings in the Middle Ages, with a view to ascertain the Style of Roof originally placed over the Guildhall of London, and to consider the Proposed Restoration.'

The Second Annual Meeting of the Devon Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art, will be held at Plymouth, on Wednesday, the 29th of July, and the two following days, under the presidency of Mr. Spence Bate. The Mayor of Plymouth, Sir John Bowering, and Sir W. Snow Harris are among the Vice-Presidents. The Rev. W. Harpley, of Plymouth, and Mr. H. S. Ellis, of Exeter, are the Honorary Secretaries.

On Monday next a meeting will be held at Willis's Rooms, under the Presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, "to consider the various questions connected with Domestic Service." This was one of Prince Albert's reforms, and it still remains one of Mr. Leech's subjects. In its serious and in its comic aspects it is alike interesting to us all. We have not heard Lord Shaftesbury's points; but there is one question connected with Domestic Service which very often forces itself on our attention—namely, the extraordinary powers, in connexion with Domestic Service, of the Cat. In the kitchen, in the larder, and even in the study, the Cat develops peculiarities unknown to Buffon. We have a black Tom, which, in connexion with our domestic service, ate two pounds of rump-steak when it was only a kitten of nineteen ounces, and which, in the same connexion, has since smoked cabanas, broken bottles and lapped up claret, carried off kid gloves to unknown fairy tables, and burned or mislaid papers of a confidential kind: in fact, has exhibited all the powers and propensities which might have been ignorantly ascribed to a friendly policeman or a cousin in the Guards. If Lord Shaftesbury could resolve this question of the cat, he would be going a very considerable way towards understanding one of "the questions connected with Domestic Service."

In the library of the late N. C. Moginie, Esq., sold by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, of Leicester Square, this week, there occurred a copy of the second edition of Coverdale's Bible, 1537. The book, from its imperfect state, was not of much importance, but it contained the left-hand half of the woodcut map belonging to the first edition of the same Bible, which fragment constituted the main value of the "lot," and it sold, after an active competition, for 45*l.*

A writer, dating from Ballymoney, in Ulster, says, in reference to the discoveries reported by Capt. Sayer in the Gibraltar Cavern:—"Mr. Sayer, amongst other objects there found, enumerates an oblong slab of sandstone, with one surface much worn and polished as if by friction, and he seems to be of opinion that the very perfect pestle which he describes and which was found within a few feet of the sandstone slab was an adjunct of the same, and was probably used for grinding cereals or breaking nuts. I wish to observe that similar oblong slabs of granite or sandstone have been occasionally found in Ireland—in Ulster, at least; that they are generally found in pairs, are called in popular language 'rub-stones,' and that the peasantry assign a very high antiquity to them. Indeed, I believe the best authorities on the subject are agreed that they were anterior to the querns or hand-mills (which are comparatively common, whilst these are rare)—that they were used for grinding cereals,—in short, that they were the very first, as they were undoubtedly the rudest, inventions for grinding purposes yet discovered. In the Museum here (Ballymoney County,

Sufficient and Insufficient Dietaries, with Special Reference to the Dietaries of Prisoners."

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—*June 15.*—Prof. Donaldson, President, in the chair.—Mr. Purdie read a paper entitled 'The Stereochromic and other Technical Processes of Painting, considered with Reference to their Employment in Mural Decoration.'

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—*May 15.*—Sir Henry Holland, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—'On the Molecule of Water,' by W. Odling, Esq.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

WED. Horticultural, 1.—Great Exhibition.
FRI. Archaeological Institute, 4.
SAT. Horticultural—Promenade.

FINE ARTS

MR. CHURCH'S 'ICEBERGS.'

Mr. Church's idea in the choice of subjects—that each one shall present an impressive and suggestive incident in nature—is an excellent one. Independent of Art, there is in such subjects as the Falls of Niagara, the Heart of the Andes, and the work before us, enough to interest the student. To appreciate them as works of Art we must separate their mere subjects from their execution, and not endow the artist or his picture with the glories of the theme, but give to him his proper honour alone. American landscape art promises to be a noble one when divested of tendencies to opacity and paintiness which, while they indicate the strength and health of a nascent and original school, prove that its professors have not yet mastered the whole of the mysteries of the colour-box and the brush. At present Transatlantic landscape painting is materialistic; seeking its means of expression in translation of literal facts—poetic and grand in themselves, rather than in their mental associations.

Mr. Church has been happy in choice of a subject for his latest picture: Niagara is hackneyed; the Heart of the Andes drew its interest from a knowledge of Nature not common amongst the people; but the floating crystal islands, the terror and admiration of ages, had never been attempted by even moderately skilled artists,—the theme was, therefore, striking in itself, original and veiled in mysterious grandeur. The sunlight that falls on the surface of the island lights it with a pure, ice-cold glittering that, when we look close, shows myriads of hues, pierces deep into the purer parts of the mass, and seems lost beyond the power of reflexion; elsewhere light has reached the roofs of caves the sea has worn by beating, so that we have it tinged the water in them with a colour that makes the emerald look crude. It is green fire where thus transmitted unabsobered and unreflected. Light on the berg is thus blue from reflexion of the sky, golden where flashed back to our eyes by the fractured and splintered surfaces, and enriched with every hue by diverse circumstances of position, form and transparency. We look in wonder at this vast rock of ice, seemingly fast anchored in the sea, yet with every moment telling its tale of dissolution by the wreaths of flying mist, by huge, yawning crevices, by the eating sea that lapses fatally at the base, has bared caverns, split long shelves, and made deep scars at every point. A scoop of sheer descent on one side of a mountain tells another secret cause of ruin; so large is it, that a mile-long shadow seems to lie in scarp: yet, vast as it is, the mere expansion of air has rent and slid off the great scale into the sea.

The effect of such a slide is marked where we should least expect it; the whole poise of the berg has thus been altered; the side near to us, becoming light, has risen and changed the line that the sea beat upon for a lower one, placed obliquely to the first. Twice this has happened, for there are two sea-worn lines at the mountain's base. We look from an ice-plain above the level of the sea into a bay worn in the berg, and made shallower by the successive up-risings or losses of balance above indicated; over this bay the wavelets ripple in tender curves, one behind the other; the shifted

THE ATHENÆUM

beaches are on the distant side, and reach almost to the removed horn of the bay, upon whose uttermost promontory the water breaks lazily and of a pure but rather ashy green. One side of the bay shows us the vista of a mountain valley; one of the cliffs is bored with the emerald cave, upon the roof of which rests an enormous boulder, torn away from the rocky arctic home of the berg, and thus floated far to south to find an ocean bed, when the whole fabric is wracked. Such ice-borne boulders are said to be the originals of our enormous stones that, grouped by some forgotten people to serve priestly rites, are named Druidic temples or tombs. The stone, deeply tinged with iron, has stained with red and russet streaks the pure snow and ice of its bed.

PICTURE SALE.

THE late Mr. Allnutt's collection of pictures and drawings has been sold by Messrs. Christie & Manson. Here are the names of the most important items and the prices they obtained. First day's sale—Drawings only: G. Barrett, A Lake Scene, Sunset, 105*l.* (Cox).—D. Cox, A Landscape, with peasants and cattle, evening, 71*gs.* (E. White).—Bonington, A Sea-piece, fishing-boats in a breeze, 70*l.* (Agnew).—G. Barrett, a landscape, with a team of horses, sunset, 70*l.* (Sale).—D. Cox, Windsor Castle, from Virginia Water, 165*gs.* (Agnew).—The Farm, sheep passing through a gate, under some pine-trees, 53*gs.* (same).—Seapiece, a Dutch galloping in a breeze, 50*l.* (Pennell).—Bonington, Scene on the French Coast, with fishing-boats, 103*l.* (Cox).—C. Fielding, Distant View of Bolsover Castle, sunset, 63*l.* (Agnew).—A River Scene, a fisherman, with eel-baskets, in a punt, storm passing off, 110*gs.* (same).—J. M. W. Turner, A River, crossed by a Bridge, hills on either side, cows in shallow water, evening; stated to be the painter's work on admission as A.R.A. (1799), which can only mean that it was exhibited in that year; and is probably that given in Rodd's list as 'Abergavenny Bridge, Monmouthshire—clearing up after a showery day.' No. 326 in Royal Academy Catalogue, 385*gs.* (Lord Ashburton). This work was also at the Art-Treasures Exhibition, under the title of 'Bridge at Abergavenny.'—G. Barrett, A Classical Bay Scene, with ruined temples and other buildings, sunset, 95*gs.* (Agnew).—D. Cox, Malvern Hills, from near Hereford, effect of passing showers, 145*gs.* (same).—J. M. W. Turner, Leeds, engraved in the England and Wales, 320*gs.* (Voxins). The first day's sale brought 3,200*l.* Second day's sale: D. Cox, Fish-Market on the Beach at Hastings, 106*gs.* (Voxins).—The Tivoli, copy from the famous picture by Turner, by D. Cox; the original and the copy both painted for Mr. Allnutt, 150*gs.* (N. Wallis).—S. Prout, a Grand Seapiece, an East-Indian under repair on the sands, other vessels and numerous figures, 215*gs.* (Pocock).—D. Cox, Windsor Castle from the Thames, cattle on the bank of the river, 245*gs.* (Agnew).—The Building of Carthage, Æneas and Achates, classical bay scene, with buildings, figures and trees, 260*gs.* (Moore).—P. De Wint, A River in Devonshire, 125*gs.* (Webb).—G. F. Robson, View of Durham Castle, Cathedral and City, cows and figures in the foreground, evening, 270*gs.* (Farrer).—D. Cox, A view over an extensive valley, a stream crossed by a bridge, wooded foreground, upright, 105*gs.* (Agnew).—P. De Wint, another River Scene, a rainbow spanning the centre, craft near the bank to the right of picture, smooth water, 325*gs.* (Cox).—G. Barrett, Classical Landscape, valley opening to the sea, Grecian temples on either side, afternoon, 110*gs.* (Crofts).—D. Cox, A Landscape, extensive valley, sheep feeding near the bank of a river, hilly distance, figures in front, 410*gs.* (Agnew).—J. M. W. Turner, Distant view of Fonthill Abbey, the lake below, wooded foreground, morning, 260*gs.* (Webb).—The companion, the same, sheep feeding, stream in front, evening, 100*gs.* (Cox).—R. R. Reinagle, Neapolitan Fishermen dragging a net on shore in the Bay of Salerno, evening; shown at the International Exhibition, No. 889, 425*gs.* (Atkins).—G. Barrett, Solitude, No. 852, at the International Exhibition, 420*gs.* (Cox).—A River Scene, Embarkation of George the Fourth at Greenwich, 210*gs.* (same).—G. Barrett, Classical Landscape, sunset, 250*gs.* (same).—J. M. W. Turner, Tivoli, 1,800*gs.* (Lord Ashburton), the engraving from the same, by Goodall, copper-plate and 465 impressions, many of them proofs before letters, executed for Mr. Allnutt, 420*l.* (Agnew). The drawing was No. 1,033 at the International Exhibition. It appears to have been exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1818, No. 474, and was at the Art-Treasures Exhibition, No. 309, then the property of W. Wilson, Esq. Second day's sale, 7,920*l.* The third day's sale took place on Saturday last. Mr. F. R. Lee, A Landscape, road across a common, wooden bridge over pool, 120*gs.* (Cox).—W. Müller, Tivoli, another copy of the famous Turner above named, to compare which with D. Cox's rendering of the original was interesting, 470*gs.* (same).—Calcott, Open Landscape, sheep grazing on broken ground, man, woman and dog in front, early morning, 310*gs.* (same).—Constable, A Landscape, mass of trees in centre, meadows in mid-distance, man ploughing in front, showery, 103*l.* (same).—J. Burnet, The Salmon Weir, 155*gs.* (J. Atkins).—Gainsborough, Woody Landscape, cottages among trees, sportsmen talking with peasant, dogs in front, a picture painted in fortunate rivalry with Teniers; as might be expected, it is larger, bolder, in a style more solid, and very warm and rich in effect, 225*gs.* (same).—Giroux, Ferry-boat in a storm, 125*gs.* (Cox); the work of an artist not often represented in English sales.—Wilson, Caledon and Amelia, in landscape, figures by Mortimer, engraved by Woollett, 210*l.* (same).—Wilkie, Sheep-washing, engraved, 120*gs.* (Rough).—J. M. W. Turner, The Pass of the Simplon, 103*l.* (Webb).—Reynolds, Contemplation, Portrait of Mrs. Stanhope, No. 108 at the International Exhibition, 1,000*gs.* (Lord Normanton).—Hofland, Richmond Hill, No. 168 at the International Exhibition, 205*gs.* (J. Allnutt).—Reynolds, Ino, seated on the ground, squeezing the juice of the grape into the mouth of Bacchus, 265*gs.* (Mainwaring).—Murillo, The Virgin seated, the Infant Christ standing on her knee, a rosary in his right hand, 730*gs.* (F. Nieuwenhuys, of Paris).—Rembrandt, A Lady in a black dress edged with fur, and a white ruff, seated in an arm-chair, a double eye-glass in her hand, a Bible, with hand-strings, on her knee, a nearly perfect example of Rembrandt's best period, 640*gs.* (same).—Giorgione, a Venetian Knight, in a striped dress, with spear and sword, standing in an attitude of meditation before a beautiful woman who reclines at the foot of a tree, two children near her, 465*gs.* (Colnaghi).—Vandyck, The Virgin in Glory, the Saviour standing on the globe, angels playing the violin, 160*gs.* (Cockburn). Total of the third day's sale, 8,175*l.*; of the three, 19,295*l.* This sale included several works of great artistic value, which fetched comparatively small prices; among these, several pictures by Stothard, a sketch of Sancho and the Duchess, by Leslie, two portraits by Maes, two groups of flowers by Morel, a fine classical landscape by G. Poussin, two pictures by Hogarth, 1. The Interior of a Studio, an artist drawing with white chalk, a lady standing behind him; 2. A View of Charing Cross, wild geese flying over the statue, the humours of a market going on, a fellow with the Cap of Liberty, or red nightcap on a pole, donkeys, pigs, &c.,—a Study, by Reynolds, for the portrait of the Marquis of Granby, &c.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—One of the happiest applications of Gothic architecture, and a complete refutation of the outcry that it could not be revived for modern civic uses, may be found in the beautiful Market Hall, recently erected at Berkhamsted, by Mr. E. B. Lamb. In this work, variety and simplicity of design are cleverly combined with convenient adaptation, and obtained, it would seem, at moderate cost. For 2,000*l.*, the town in question had a market-hall, lecture-room, reading-room and other apartments, in an honest piece of building, without stucco, without pediments or bow-headed windows, sham pilasters or a portico,—useless exteriorly and darkening the rooms within. Its decorative features honestly suggest the chief use of the structure as a

market-house, and comprise carvings of vegetables, fruit, &c., not gods and goddesses, satyrs, tragic masks and what else.

Messrs. Woollams, of Manchester and London, paper-stainers, have shown us a large collection of designs, made by Mr. G. T. Robinson, architect, of Leamington. These, with great pleasure we highly commend; they are generally designed upon the true principles of decorative Art, and do not affect anything like imitation of natural objects. Conventionalized patterns, often displaying great beauty of form and intense variety, characterize the examples sent to us. The examples are of all classes, including the most costly paperings intended for ecclesiastical purposes, such as the backs of altars and walls of vestries. To the former of these applications of a merely manufactured article we object, believing that there is no apology for the use of anything but good Art direct from the artist, or good handicraft. Those for domestic use, in drawing, dining and sleeping rooms, are based mainly on natural foliage, the hawthorn, buttercup, shamrock, passion-flower, ivy, &c. The general principle of many of these works is Gothic in feeling; others are conventional and suited for all kinds of uses. The same manufacturers, we learn, are about to produce a similar series based upon Greek design. With a few exceptions, the colouring of the specimens sent to us is commendable; in many, it is worthy of the highest praise.

Many practitioners of the mechanical art of photography suffer under the hallucination that all they produce is of value to artists; hence we have speculator after speculator publishing photographic "studies," so called, of the most wretched models, male and female, posed in commonplace ways, farcical to artists—who know that what is valuable to themselves in life-model studies is not the things, but the practice of making them—delusive to the public and their producers. The ugliest compositions of cattle, of still-life, and what not, are thrust in artists' faces by patriotic photographers with the zeal of those boys who insist on selling moribund periodicals at half-price. Once for all, the "profession" may take our word, that, unless composed with the most subtle art (art of which photography has, as yet, not the dimmest idea), its "compositions" are abominable to painters. No artist, who is worth the chair he sits in, will, even if he could, paint from such things. As pleasant memoranda of things seen and enjoyed, as suggestions of the unseen substantialities of the earth, but in no way of the idea of the grandest works of Art—for we doubt if any one feels awed by a photograph of the Pyramids—photographs are handy. Details of architecture come out well by the process; but even in this application we must be on our guard against its weaknesses. Art-value does not lie in the production of the minutest details of an object, unless into it is imported, by the genius of the artist, something of human interest. As yet photographers have not succeeded in putting brains and hearts into their cameras; so that, unless they themselves bring those essential items of humanity to bear upon their productions, such works as that before us, published by Brunellière & Fischer, and styled "Adjutor," are good for nothing. What amount of intelligent feeling its producers have our readers will guess when we say, that the best plate represents a "study" of dead fish, which, to suit the convenience of the camera, have been nailed against an upright board!

Mr. G. F. Bodley is engaged upon a church in course of erection at Cambridge, for All Souls' parish, near the College, which promises well in the spirit, grace and loftiness of its design. This has a nave, and but one aisle, on the south, divided by a five-arched arcade of octagonal columns and moulded cups; the chancel placed under the tower, and vestry at the south-east angle. The interior of the nave and aisle will be light by geometrically-traceried windows; the tower-arch will be high in spring and elegantly proportioned, in the character of the edifice—that of the fourteenth century.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

MUSICAL UNION—LAST MATINÉE of the SEASON—TUESDAY, July 7.—Pianist, Lübeck, from Paris; Violinist, Auer (from Pesth); Violoncellist, Piatti, &c. J. ELLA, Director.

MR. BRINLEY RICHARD'S CONCERT.—WEDNESDAY EVENING, July 1.—The programme will consist chiefly of a selection from Mr. Brinley Richard's Compositions and of Works previously given at the Royal Academy. Mr. Wynn, Mrs. Sims Reeves, and Lewis Thomas; Messrs. John Thomas, Balfe, Chaterton, Engel and Paque; Messrs. Benedict, Sullivan, Archer, Pearce and Hargitt.—Mr. Sims Reeves will sing a new Song with Chorus, "The White Cross of Denmark," and "God Bless the Prince of Wales."—Stalls and Tickets, 1s. 6d. and 2s.; at Messrs. Coates'; and of Mr. Brinley Richard, 4, Turlington Street, Russell Square.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

VOCAL MUSIC.

It is impossible to class the songs before us, and not easy to find anything new to say concerning a pile of music in which there is so little novelty. It would seem as if the power of producing such sweet, natural English melodies as Arne, and Shield, and Bishop wrote is a lost secret. In their days our music had a character which is now too sparingly to be met with. Our composers attend to modulation and accompaniment more than did their forefathers, but "where (as the Irish lady said of the torso,) are the features?" We may have paid too dear for our intercourse with foreign parts if we have lost our individuality. Air (to use the old term) is too much neglected and disdained. With this may be mentioned again another cause of depreciation in the English song, the carelessness of our writers as to the words.

Mr. Henry Smart is a liberal contributor to the collection here to be catalogued. "The pure in heart shall meet again," words by W. Guernsey, and "Priez pour elle," the words by W. H. Bellamy, are for a *contralto* voice. "The magic of the flower," "Bright be her dreams," "Waiting for the Spring" (*contralto* again), and "Floating leaves," are to words by Frederick Enoch. "Thinking of thee" and "Sir Brian the bold" (the latter a dramatic ballad) bring us back into Mr. Bellamy's company. "Paquita" is by Augustus Greville, Esq. (The above are published by Cramer, Beale & Wood.) There is a level merit in this collection of songs, rising, if not very far, above common-place, and they are neatly finished; but there is more poetry and genius in the few simple notes written to be sung and varied in Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" than in the entire eight songs here before us.—*The Bells*, duett (words by E. Poe), and *A Farewell* (words by Tennyson), by Frederick C. Atkinson (Jewell) have some touches of fancy in them—German, rather than English, fancy, however.—"Come hither, come hither," Moore's voluptuous lyric from "Lalla Rookh," with its musically sibilant burthen, "It is this, it is this," has been oftentimes set, possibly never in better spirit than here by M. Schultes (Lonsdale).—*Craigie Burn*, by Rosetta O'Leary Vining (Ewer & Co.), hardly merits the honours of print.—"Adieu, Adieu!" by Edgar Musgrave (Chappell & Co.), appears under peculiar circumstances. Its writer, we are instructed, is one of the many in whom loss of sight has quickened the musical sense. A certain timidity, distinct from poverty, may be discerned in this song, which is not without its sad grace, but the rhythm is too monotonous.—Mr. Deacon's "Too Late" (Duncan, Davison & Co.) is an ambitious and impassioned setting of the Laureate's lyric of "The Foolish Virgins." Despair and entreaty are in it, but it is too fragmentary; and the word "feet" should not be set to three notes, the middle one being the most strongly accented of the three.—"When loving ones are parted" is a *Romance* by Herr Kucken, and not one of his best; the English words are by Mr. Linley (Cocks & Co.).

Some Part-songs may now be enumerated. In "Evening now soft rapture brings" (six parts), by Joseph F. Duggan (Foster & King), the attempt is more obvious than the success.—Of "Y Tywyth Teg" (*The Fairies*), by Mr. John Thomas (Addison & Co.), we have spoken elsewhere: another song and chorus from the same hand (same publishers), "Geolad Y telyn ar'r Bardd" (*Land of the Min-*

strele Bard), has a good, bold burthen. Mr. Thomas has also harmonized the *Polish National Hymn*, "Boze cos Polske" (same publishers), to English words by Mr. Darby Griffith. The cause is better than the patriotic tune.—"Sir Knight! Sir Knight," *Sintram's Song*, and "The Wounded Cupid," words by Herrick, are by Miss Macirone (Novello & Co.). We have again to commend this young lady as managing voices with ease, cleverness in construction, and a due regard to the grouping of sounds, without which there is no part-writing.—Miss Macirone has been less well advised in her "Henri de Lagardière" (Chappell & Co.), natural and tempting though the admiration be of M. Fechter's acting which has prompted her to write it. It is a poor and tormented song, *alla Polacca*.—Mrs. Groom contributes *A Patriotic Song* (Lonsdale & Co.) to the Fund for the Spitalfields weavers. It is not equal to her "Over the sea."

"My heart is fair for somebody," and "Blow, blow, thou winter's wind," by Agnes Zimmermann (Ewer & Co.), go far to justify the reputation gained by this young lady in the Royal Academy.—There is a certain ungraciousness of character in the Shakespeare song, referable, no doubt, to the words, but be it right, be it wrong, we prefer Arne's reading. The mixture of melancholy, melody and freshness in his setting is almost unparagone, in the library of Shakespeare songs.—"Hail! beauteous blossom, fair exotic flower," by T. Walstein (Jewell), written for the recent royal nuptials, contains four lines the mystical charm of which is irresistible:—

Thy fragrance shall the Briton's heart replete
With balm perfume growing e'er more sweet,
Each opening leaf a mother's joy shall prove
And drink the dew-drops of a nation's love.

It would beat the science of a Bach to mate the above words worthily with music.—"My Mary with the curling hair," by Charles Ball (Addison & Co.), is worth little.—Four songs, "The green grass covers all," "Yes, loving hearts," "These things can never die," and "Do not call on me," by Henry Fase (Williams & Co.), merit no better character.—*The Royal Wedding Serenade*, by W. G. Cusins (Lambourn, Cock & Co.), produced, as was duly mentioned, at Her Majesty's Theatre, will not strengthen the reputation of its composer. It may have been a hasty work, but feature and freshness are wanting to it.—*A Book of Music*, by W. Borrow (Metzler & Co.), containing three part and two single ones,—also, a *Rêverie* (for the pianoforte alone),—is an amateur's contribution to the finishing of the tower of St. Stephen's Church, Highgate Green.—*Serenade*, written for Birmingham by J. A. Langford, the music by A. J. Sutton (Augener & Co.), has been already mentioned in reference to its words. We cannot wonder that in some of the movements of this rather ambitious *Cantata* (as, for instance, the florid *Potacca*, No. 4) the composer has entirely disregarded the sense, and tried to weave a chain of sounds in themselves lively and attractive. The Introduction is one of the best numbers—perhaps because the form of it recalls the Introduction of Mendelssohn's "Lauda Sion." There has been worse wedding-music than that of this *Cantata*.—*A Set of Six Songs*, Op. 5, however, shows Mr. Sutton in a more favourable light. They are above rather than below the average.—So also are "To the Muse," *Serenade* by Coleridge,—"The Chimes," "The Harp and the Poet," by Joseph M'Kewan (Cramer & Co.).

Lastly, Messrs. Lonsdale & Co. continue active in the reprint or re-issue of Handel's *Songs*, those from "L'Allegro" being among the last put forth. The couplets, "Hide me from Day's garish eye," are twenty times over worth the entire assemblage of songs, from which we are well content to part.

CONCERTS.—He who has, by the aid of pen, to keep pace with the music of this London June, is very much in the plight of the visitor to the gathering of part-singers at Cologne in the "Elijah" year, who, before a three-hours long dinner was well off the table, had to grapple with a two-hours long supper of an amateur society, three hotels distant. "Music mad" is the motto of the month; and one may be well forgiven for looking forward to that

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samer period when there shall be only four concerts a day, or thereabouts. Be it remembered, that three series of orchestral concerts (exclusive of choral societies) have been going on,—the merciful indolence and want of enterprise among their directors alone having absolved us from the necessity of following their course in detail. Our chamber-concert givers have been far livelier and worthier—yet, with regard to their doings, simple enumeration must, of necessity, be largely resorted to, howsoever desirous the recorder be to neglect no worthy thing.—We must be contented with stating that the *Matinée* of Signori Piatti and Arditi took place; also that of Herr Goldberg;—that the *Pianoforte Quartett Association* has given a new *Pianoforte Quartett* by Herr Molique, of which we shall hear more, and which it would have been wise in the composer not to have withheld from his own concert (now also over), since there it would have been benefited by the able support of his daughter, Mdlle. Anna.—In noticing the concert of Miss Lascelles last week, we should not have passed the singing of Mr. Redfearn, whose tenor voice is not unpleasing.—*Master Willie Pape's Matinée* must not pass without a word. He is a child of real musical genius—already a pianist of considerable accomplishment and most tenacious and comprehensive memory,—one to be much praised and not a little grieved over, seeing that he is presented to the world as a prodigy. How sad we hold such a mistake to be, need not be again told—the sadness in proportion to the promise.—*Mr. Deacon* has given his last *Matinée*, at which he followed the humour of the year in attempting to reconcile our public to Schumann's *Pianoforte Quintett*—a humour only bespeaking dearth in that form of chamber-music. Wherefore are not the works of Ries ransacked, and why should not Dr. Bennett, or Mr. Wallace, or Mr. Sullivan do something in relief of the famine—though that, we trust, will never drive our sufferers to enjoy unwholesome food? Of a new song by Mr. Deacon, 'Too Late,' very finely sung by Madame Sainton-Dolby, mention will be found elsewhere.—*M. Halle's Recital* yesterday week was the most interesting one of his series, so far as it has gone. The masterly and fanciful Sonata by Schubert, in F flat, one of his later works, belonging to a set of three grand compositions—such as the great German writers were rich enough to give out as a single *opus*—was of itself worth the price of a concert-ticket. How delicious are the melodies of the *allegro!* how bold its transitions!—how well is the interest kept up, long as is the movement!—how noble is the *adagio* in F sharp minor, in its nobility next among *adagios* to those of Beethoven!—how simply beautiful the *minuet!*—how quaintly audacious the *finale!* This *Sonata* was our event of the week—being played as only M. Halle can play it. Besides this, he gave Clementi's interesting *Fantasia* in F major, Bach's *Fantasia Cromatica*, with other music; not forgetting three charming trifles by M. Heller, one of which must needs be repeated.—Then there have been concerts by Herr Blunner,—and M. Georges Pfeiffer, the adopted (as he advertises) "of the Conservatoire of Paris," at which himself and M. Lebouc appeared, and where he performed a new Concerto, of which report speaks highly. Miss Gabriel's *Cantata*, 'Dreamland,' was repeated,—this time with orchestra.—The above paragraph sketches, we do not say completely, the proceedings of two concert-days in London.

There were some noticeable things at the *Crystal Palace Concert* of Saturday last—of its kind, an excellent one, though less interesting to us than such less showy meetings as are devoted to music rather than to musicians. Herr Habelmann is a German tenor, with an agreeable voice, which would be more agreeable were his vocal skill greater and were his ideas of musical expression more just. His song from 'Martha' will not be tolerated so long as Signor Mario is in the kingdom. M. Lotto is, already, one of the greatest wonder-players on the violin. His tone is not large; but his tune is perfect and his execution is apparently limitless. In expression he is outdone by his contemporary, M. Auer. Meanwhile, the dash and difficulty of his *pizzicati*,—of his scales rapid as lightning, but with every note as

distinct as diamonds on a string,—of his sure and audacious double stops—transport his audiences as rapturously as did the more measured marvels of Herr Joachim's versions of more stirring music. The clever variations by M. Leonard to Haydn's 'God preserve the Emperor,' which M. Lotto played, must be mentioned as a new solo of considerable effect and value. The success of this capital executant has led to the wise measure of his having a daily engagement this week at Sydenham; and lovers of violin-wonders must have found the journey thither to hear him well worth taking. Madame Lemmens-Sherington is in excellent voice, and every month seems to add to the certainty of her execution; but her bird-song from 'Acis and Galatea' might have been read in a less knowing and deliberate fashion. Handel says enough for himself, without the indiscretion of over-emphasis being added to his clearly-marked periods. M. de Vroye (a Belgian, we believe) is a volatile flutist, with a modest amount of tone. Mdlle. Artot is finished and warm in M. Gounod's exquisite *Serenade* (which, however, wants the accompaniment not of flute, but of harmonium), and her song and herself narrowly escaped an *encore*. But her tendency to *sforzati* effects, in unconscious imitation of Madame Viardot, must be amended,—as false and second-hand in her case, whereas in that of the original it belongs to resistless natural impulse.

Mr. Benedict's Concert was, as usual, a *cento* of good, bad and indifferent things. In the first category must be placed his own compositions—an *andante* with orchestra, which is, we hope, part of a *Concerto*—being, as it is certainly, one of the most unaffectedly beautiful things we have heard since the year came in, and not marked by any tinge of dryness which is to be felt in other of his composer's instrumental works.—A very good Italian *scena* by him was very well sung by Madame Lemmens-Sherington,—and the great scene of parade, composed for Mdlle. Parepa, was given to perfection by that lady, who has of late gained in every respect as a vocalist, and is now among the best singers in Europe.—A *duettino*, by Mr. Benedict's school-mate, from Weber's unfinished 'Three Pintos,' has in it some lively touches of the author of 'Preciosa'!—how incomparable among modern Germans as a melodist! Well might Mendelssohn say, "His tunes do so flatten the ear."—It is obviously impossible to go further in the details of Mr. Benedict's stupendous programme.

The reader must not yet be released till he has been told that Herr Wilhelm Ganz has received his friends,—that a concert has been given conjointly by Mdlle. Elvira Behrens and that pleasing Lieder-writer, Herr Abt,—till he has been reminded of the pleasing talent of Mr. George Russell, one of the many young English gentlemen who now do a credit to music, whose concert was given on Monday. We may, possibly, speak of Signor Vera's Concert, his music, and the singing of his sister, Madame Vera-Lorini, on Saturday next.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—'Elisabetta.'—A wild fancy which would make its way the other night, may be forgiven, perhaps, as breaking the monotony of mere report. What would the shade of England's glorious Virgin Queen—she who loved plays and players, and held the cards against Dons that approached her with Latin addresses—and finished Raleigh's soliloquy with a second line,—and would only be painted "in a garden light," where no shadows could disturb the beauty of her face,—she who discomfited the hosts of the Armada,—who signed away the life of "the Scots Queen,"—and whose glory vanished from earth amid the mournful gloom of heart-ache, remorse and mistrust of those who, perforce, were to wield the sceptre, when her pride was no more,—what (we repeat) would she have felt and thought could it have witnessed Elizabeth's life mirrored to-day in the broken glass of a tawdry Italian playwright—in order that an Italian actress might present her, in her pomp and pride, and coquetry, and wrath, and heroism, and cruelty and weary death—before the eyes of another English Queen's subjects! In truth, the personation is a strange

triumph of genius, as evoking a character of the past out of a few shreds and tatters and doubtful stories and memories. The worse the play, the more wondrous the artist;—and she seemed to us, the other evening, more wondrous than ever,—more imperious, more subtle, more regal in her magnificence, more awful in her solitary decline and death.—Signor Giacometti's drama is school-boy work; Madame Ristori's personation is one of those masterpieces of power which must remain in recollection, after the first amazement and delight and thrill have subsided, so long as life and reason last. It subdued her public more than on any former exhibition of it; and to have seen it again is good for those who are anxious, when weighing and comparing, to keep clear of exaggerating the past at the expense of the present.

On Monday, those who love the gentler graces of romance in the life and sorrows of Mary Stuart had their satisfaction. It is impossible to carry further the expression laid out by the dramatist than is done by the actress; and, visibly inspired by the delight of her audience, who seem to relish her performances as they have never till now done, she can never have given more subtlety and power to the encounter between the rival Queens—never have drawn more tears than in the scene of Mary's leave-taking of life. The pathos of this last is resistless; the contrast betwixt it and the performance just mentioned marvellous, and beyond the reach of any other actress.

PRINCESS'S.—Mr. Walter Montgomery appeared at this house, on Saturday, in the character of *Otello*. Some interest attached to his appearance, consequent on his having been engaged by Mr. Fechter, and announced on his bills for the last six months; but owing to the success of 'The Duke's Motto,' no room has yet been found for him on the Lyceum stage. Impatient for a London appearance, Mr. Montgomery made terms with Mr. George Vining for his *début* at this theatre; whereupon Mr. Fechter applied to Chancery to prevent Mr. Montgomery acting, but the Court decided in favour of the latter. Mr. Montgomery has a figure suited for the stage, and a good voice;—he has also disciplined himself in gesture, attitude and utterance, his elocution being particularly correct. We had reason, however, to doubt his physical power, as in the third act his vocal energy became exhausted, and it was with difficulty that the actor continued his declamation. He struggled, indeed, manfully against difficulties, and in the end produced a favourable impression. Much allowance is to be made for Mr. Montgomery's anxiety in regard to the Chancery process, which had only just terminated in his favour, and which had temporarily affected his state of health; and though we cannot at present arrive at a decided decision, we shall watch his progress with interest.

NEW ADELPHI.—The applicability of Prof. Pepper's apparatus for the production of apparitional illusions to the purposes of the stage has at length been perceived by a West-end manager, and on Saturday a dramatic version of Mr. Charles Dickens's 'Haunted Man' was placed on these boards. Mr. Webster has certainly improved both on the Polytechnic and the Hoxton displays, and nothing can be more effectively managed than the ghostly appearances at this theatre. The story is not very well made out in the accompanying drama; but Mr. Toole and Miss Woolgar, as Mr. and Mrs. Tetterby, have an opportunity for domestic acting of which they avail themselves in a remarkable manner. The irritability produced by narrow circumstances was never better indicated, and was interpreted in a style that implied a peculiar genius for such stage-portraiture in both lady and gentleman. Should the ghosts prove popular, this Tetterby scene will add greatly to the reputation of these performers.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—A new *Cantata* by Dr. Bennett was announced for the inauguration of the new building at Slough for the British Orphan Asylum, which took place

on Wednesday last. His 'May Queen' is to be performed on Friday next, at a Grand Concert of the "National Association for the Encouragement of Music," conducted by Mr. H. Leslie.

The run of M. Gounod's noble opera at Her Majesty's Theatre has been unbroken beyond anything of the kind in our English experiences, and might, we are satisfied, go on profitably to the end of the season were the theatre not a subscription theatre, the frequenter of which require change of performances. It is said that Mr. Sims Reeves is studying the part, with a view of replacing Signor Giuglini at the termination of that gentleman's engagement. We hear, too, that the opera is to be tried in the provinces in its English version. It is advertised at Covent Garden Theatre on Tuesday next.

From the *Journal des Débats* we learn that Mlle. Agar has taken revenge on Fortune by making a successful appearance at the Théâtre Français as *Phèdre*. But while we read this, heartily hoping that the news is true, we must not forget that M. Janin, the chronicler, is a strange guide in the case of tragic actresses. Even as he writes to-day about Mlle. Agar, he wrote years ago about Mlle. Maxime, urging her claims as a rival to Rachel, and then tiring of his advocacy and enthusiasm, with a suddenness and total change of note which must have bewildered his poor client, to say the least of it. She passed into immediate and final obscurity.—M. Jules Leconte has been giving a one-act piece at the same theatre, 'Une Loge d'Opéra.'

MISCELLANEA

Recovery of Waste Places.—Nichol Street, New Nichol Street, Half-Nichol Street, Nichol Row, Turville Street; comprising within the same area numerous blind courts and alleys, form a densely crowded district in Bethnal Green. Among its inhabitants may be found street vendors of every kind of produce, travellers to fairs, tramps, dog-fanciers, dog-stealers, men and women sharpers, shoplifters and pickpockets. It abounds with the young Arabs of the streets, and its outward moral degradation is at once apparent to any one who passes that way. Here the police are certain to be found, day and night, their presence being required to quell riots and to preserve decency. Sunday is a day much devoted to pet pigeons and to bird-singing clubs: prizes are given to such as excel in note, and a ready sale follows each award. Time thus employed was formerly devoted to cock-fighting. In this locality, twenty-five years ago, an employer of labour, Mr. Jonathan Duthoit, made an attempt to influence the people for good by the hire of a room for meeting purposes. The first attendance consisted of one person. Persistent efforts were, however, made; other rooms have from time to time been taken and enlarged; numerous friends of progress have devoted themselves to the benefit of the people; and two years ago a favourable site was obtained on which to erect a spacious hall, in which 500 adults and 1,100 children are constantly collected and brought under sectarian Christian instruction. Illustrated Lectures are delivered; a Loan Library has been established, also a Clothing Club and Penny Bank, and Training Classes for industrial purposes. The people have commenced voluntary offerings as an expression of their acknowledgment of the benefits received:—during the last year, 30*l.* was thus contributed. So far encouraged, the friends of the Institution, under the presidency of the Rev. Henry Allon, of Islington, have determined upon a further effort. A second piece of land has been obtained, at a cost of £25*l.*, and suitable buildings will forthwith be erected for the accommodation of 1,000 children for educational purposes. The New Buildings, with the purchase of land, will cost 2,150*l.*; towards this sum, 900*l.* has been contributed within the last few days.

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Extracts from the Report of the Directors, for the Year 1862.

Submitted to the Twenty-seventh General Meeting of Proprietors and Policy-holders, held at Aberdeen, on the 12th day of June, 1863.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR.

Net Premiums received	£127,946	2	7
Losses by Fire (including all Outstanding Claims), Commission to Agents, and Charges of Management applicable to this Branch	95,688	13	6
Surplus.....	£32,257	9	1

"Your Directors would call the attention of the Shareholders to the fact, that notwithstanding a further loss of revenue through the discontinuance of the American business, amounting to upwards of 10,000*l.*, the premiums for 1862 show a considerable increase upon the preceding year. The net premiums for the year 1861 amounted to 115,834*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, while, as already shown, that amount is exceeded in 1862 by upwards of 12,00*l.* 0*s.*

"It must, however, be borne in mind that the period embraced in the accounts for the year 1861 consisted of eleven months only, so that the increase is not so great as at first sight it appears; but under the circumstances above referred to the Shareholders will probably consider it a very satisfactory advance.

"Ever since the year 1852, when the Company took the important step of extending its business beyond the narrow limits of Scotland and certain districts in Ireland, to which, until then, it had been confined, it has been the good fortune of your Directors to find themselves year after year in a position to report an amount of progress such as few of the Fire Offices of this country have achieved at any period of their history. In the year 1851-2 the whole revenue of the Company from fire premiums did not amount to 10,000*l.* It is now nearly 130,000*l.*, or about thirteen times the amount at which it stood ten years ago, and the Company has in that period risen to occupy the seventh place (in point of income) on the list of the Fire Offices of the United Kingdom.

"Nor is it only in respect of the magnitude of the Company's transactions that your Directors look back with satisfaction on the labours of the past ten years. While it is admitted on all hands that the business of Fire Insurance has, during the greater part of that period, been, on the whole, unprofitable to the Offices, the Northern Company, notwithstanding occasional heavy losses, has always been able to show a considerable sum at the credit of its reserve fund. On the 31st January, 1861, this fund stood at 47,131*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, but in consequence of the severe loss which the Company sustained by the great fire which occurred in London in June of that year the fund was reduced at its close to 22,490*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* After providing for all outstanding claims the fund will now stand at 55,784*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*—a higher amount than it has reached at any time since the establishment of the Company."

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

1. ASSURANCES.

NEW BUSINESS.

Number of Lives insured during the Year:-			
Participation	394		
Non-participation	161		
Aggregate of Amounts insured:-			
Participation	£197,880	0	0
Non-participation	102,210	0	0
Premiums thereon:-			
Participation	£6,067	19	11
Non-participation	4,336	13	10

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR.

Non-participation Branch:-			
Premiums (less re-insurances)	£22,531	18	0
Interest on accumulations.....	4,615	15	10
Net receipts	£27,047	13	10
Claims by death, surrenders, commission to agents, and proportion of general charges	15,173	12	1
Surplus (carried to Accumulated Fund)	£11,874	1	9
Participation Branch:-			
Premiums (less re-assurances)	£52,823	0	9
Interest on accumulations.....	11,182	17	8
Net receipts	£64,005	18	5
Claims by death (including bonus additions), surrenders, and allowance for management	34,435	10	8
Surplus (carried to Accumulated Fund)	£29,570	7	9

2. ANNUITIES.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE YEAR.

Amount received on account of 18 Annuities granted during the year.....	£6,700	16	6
Interest on accumulations.....	1,776	7	1
Amount paid in respect of 187 current Annuities £4,146	3	10	
Commission to Agents, and proportion of general charges.....	269	8	1
Surplus (carried to Accumulated Fund)	£4,121	11	8

Number of Life Policies current on 31st December, 1862—5,404.

Aggregate of the amounts thereby insured—£2,269,751.

ACCUMULATED LIFE FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1862.

Non-participation Fund	£120,380	7	4
Participation Fund	303,219	15	10
Annuity Fund.....	44,382	13	1

Total Life Funds

£467,982 16 3

"Owing chiefly to the great advantages afforded by the Company to those who join the 'Participating' class of policy-holders, in consequence of which comparatively few transactions find their way to the 'Non-participating' branch, the details of the progress

of this department generally possess less interest for the Shareholders than they do for the assured. Under these circumstances, it is to the latter that your Directors have, in the first instance, to offer their congratulations on the results of the year.

"By comparing the foregoing with former Reports it will be found that in 1862 a larger number of new entrants joined the participating branch than in any previous year. The claims by death were, at the same time, considerably lighter than the calculations of the office provided for, and the amount added to the accumulated fund is within a fraction of 30,000*l.*

"In the Non-participating branch, which interests the Proprietors alone, although, as before stated, the amount of new business has been small, the claims by death have also been below what was to be expected in the twenty-seventh year of the Company's existence; and the sum carried to the credit of the Accumulated Fund is correspondingly large.

"Taking the two branches together, it will be seen that, in number of new policies issued, aggregate of amounts assured, and premiums arising therefrom, the results of the year exceed those of any of its predecessors."

INVESTMENTS.

Total assets of the Company at Dec. 31, 1862, standing as follows, and yielding an average rate of interest of 4*s.* 9*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum..... £625,692 5 4

1. On real estate	£71,515	3	3
2. Consols, New and Reduced Three per Cents	45,408	19	7
3. On assignment of Dividends on stock in the public funds, reversions, &c.	17,413	19	9
4. Railway and other debentures	168,646	8	2
5. Indian Government Guaranteed Railway Stocks	60,845	11	0
6. Colonial (British) Government Bonds	23,834	7	9
7. Prussian Government Bonds and Debentures	14,068	10	2
8. On railway and other stocks and shares	55,071	17	5
9. On personal security with assignment of life policies	25,522	16	6
10. Advances to the assured on their policies, being in all cases within the surrender value thereof	8,964	4	5
11. Company's premises in Aberdeen, London, and Edinburgh	23,259	10	11
12. Sundry other securities	9,670	19	1

£524,242 8 0

Bills receivable, being remittances not arrived at maturity

7,942 10 0

Amount at the debit of the Melbourne Branch (on deposit at interest, or on current account with bankers there)..... 13,534 19 11

In the hands of other branch offices and agencies

30,018 5 2

On deposit with bankers in this country

20,000 0 0

On current accounts with ditto

21,766 1 3

Interest on investments accrued but not payable

4,864 10 2

Miscellaneous assets

3,215 2 3

Cash in hand

118 8 7

£101,449 17 4

£625,692 5 4

DIVIDEND TO SHAREHOLDERS.

The Report then goes on to state that, having regard to the highly satisfactory results of the year, and to the state of the Reserve Fund, the Directors had pleasure in recommending the payment of an increased dividend, at the rate of 10*s.* per cent. on the paid-up capital of the Company, and the same, having been confirmed by the Meeting, will become payable on and after the 20th current, free of income-tax.

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Illustrated London News, Feb. 28, 1863.

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